SUNDAY TIMES

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MAY 17, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 34 | INCLUDING BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

OF INDIA

In a stern message to Islamabad, **Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi** says that **if Pakistan continues to harbour terrorists and operate against India,** then they have to **'decide whether they want to be part of geography or history or not'** P 7

France appoints judge to lead an inquiry into the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi after a court said a human rights group's complaint is admissible. A complaint by Khashoggi's employer was deemed 'inadmissible' P 18

Nepal's Supreme Court issues **interim order restraining the Balen govt from collecting customs on goods above NR 100 brought from India,** directs authorities not to enforce the disputed provision till final verdict P 18

Israel confirms it has killed Izz al-Din al-Haddad, chief of Hamas' military wing in an air strike in Gaza, the most senior Hamas official killed since a US-backed ceasefire agreement came into effect in Oct P 18

Estd. 1838 | VOL. 35 NO. 20 | BENGALURU

PRICE ₹6

No arms sale to Taiwan for now, says Trump

US President Donald Trump suggested the US may avoid military involvement if Taiwan seeks formal independence, saying Washington would not "travel 9,500 miles to fight a war." He warned Taipei against independence and said a proposed $14 billion arms package remains on hold, depending on China's response. **P 18**

Drug used by IS operatives seized in Delhi, Syrian held

NCB has busted an international drug network, making India's first seizure of captagon. Officials arrested a Syrian national and seized 227.7kg of captagon worth Rs 182 crore at Delhi and Mundra port. The drug, used by Islamic State in West Asia, was concealed in machinery and cargo. Probe continues into syndicate, hawala links, handlers. **P 10**

Accept all plaints of police excesses in past 5 yrs: Suvendu

West Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari Saturday ordered police stations to accept complaints of alleged police excesses from the past five years. He said fresh FIRs could cover political violence, brutality, harassment of women, and welfare-linked extortion. He also vowed stricter rule of law in the state. **Flap Opp**

IS No. 2 killed in joint US-Nigeria op

Abu-Bilal al-Minuki, second-in-command of IS worldwide, has been killed in a joint operation by US and Nigerian forces in the west African country. **P 18**

PM: Gains of past decades will be lost if crisis continues

PM Modi has warned that challenges facing the world could undo the successes of past decades and push a large section of global population into poverty if not addressed, while lauding India's "unprecedented" transformation on his watch.

Addressing the Indian diaspora in The Hague, he said, "We are witnessing how the world is struggling with new challenges one after the other. First was the pandemic, then wars began to erupt and now the world is facing an energy crisis. This decade is increasingly turning into a decade of disasters for the world. We can all see that if these conditions are not changed swiftly, **a very large section of the world's population could again be pushed into the quagmire of poverty.**" TNN

▶**Land of opportunities, P 13**

ANI

India is now a tech-driven land of opportunities, the PM told the diaspora in The Hague, urging them to reconnect with the country

Govt seeks to restrict silver imports

Days after govt more than doubled customs duty, it is now moving to restrict the import of certain types of silver to reduce surging shipments of bullion. The directorate general of foreign trade has moved silver bars containing 99% or more of the metal as well as "other" silver bars into the "restricted category", which means imports will only be allowed after a licence is issued by the govt agency. A senior govt official said that the move has been initiated primarily to monitor specific import lines. **P 7**

ASML partners with Tata for semiconductors

As PM Modi held talks with his Dutch counterpart, Rob Jetten, the two countries upgraded their relationship into a strategic partnership. They also witnessed the signing of an agreement between Tata Electronics and ASML to support the semiconductor fabrication plant in Gujarat's Dholera, with Modi calling it an important step in India's journey towards developing a semiconductor ecosystem.

ASML is the leading supplier of high-precision lithography equipment, a critical requirement in the manufacture of semiconductor chips. **P 13**

▶**Chola dynasty copper plates returned, P 13**

Centre approves 1,122 more med seats for K'taka govt colleges

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a major boost to medical education in Karnataka, Union ministry of health and family welfare has approved an increase of 1,122 medical seats in the state under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). The sanctioned intake includes 550 MBBS and 572 postgraduate (PG) seats at govt colleges.

While the increase in PG seats spans 23 medical colleges, state govt had proposed increasing the number of MBBS seats in 11 medical colleges, all of which have now been approved. However, inclusion of these seats in the 2026-27 admission matrix will depend on final approval from National Medical Commission (NMC).

"Karnataka will get a total of 1,122 medical seats. That is as good as starting 10 new medical colleges. This is a great achievement for the department," medical education minister Sharan Prakash Patil said at a press conference on Saturday.

Officials said funds will be issued in four instalments.

NMC NOD AWAITED

- Union health ministry **approves 550 MBBS, 572 PG seats** for K'taka
- Seat addition **awaits final nod from NMC**
- **₹1.6k crore funding cleared** for infrastructure upgrade at med colleges
- 10 private medical colleges **seek NMC nod for 700 additional seats**

▶**Applications pending, P 4**

CBSE brings 3-language rule to Class 9, drops 3rd from board

New Delhi: CBSE has decided to implement the new three-language rule for Class 9 from the 2026–27 academic session, **reports Manash Gohain**.

From July 1, 2026, all Class 9 students must study three languages, with "at least two being native Indian languages", under National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and National Curriculum Framework 2023.

Students opting for a foreign language can do so "as the third language only if the other two languages are native Indian languages, or as an additional fourth language", according to a CBSE circular.

The board also announced relief measures for students by removing formal board examinations for the third language.

▶**Internal assessment, P 12**

Indus treaty on hold, says India after CoA ruling

New Delhi: India reiterated Saturday that its decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance remains in force, rejecting a ruling by a Court of Arbitration (CoA) that govt maintains was illegally constituted at the behest of Pakistan.

"The illegally constituted so-called CoA has, on 15 May 2026, issued what it termed an award concerning maximum pondage supplemental to the award on issues of general interpretation of the Indus Waters Treaty," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. TNN

▶**Defends suspension, P 11**

No kidding: Naidu offers cash sop for 3rd, 4th child

Siva.G@timesofindia.com

Visakhapatnam: Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu Saturday announced that the state govt would give incentives to families that go for a third and fourth child, calling the declining population growth worrisome.

He said govt would give Rs 30,000 for a family having a third child and Rs 40,000 for the fourth child. Naidu has been advocating large families in Andhra, where total fertility rate has been declining. He had earlier announced a series of economic measures that included an incentive of Rs 25,000 for second child. The new incentives come against the backdrop of the proposed delimitation exercise to be taken up across the country.

TFR AT ALL-TIME LOW

- Andhra has been at the **forefront of family planning for decades** that has led to a dip in young population
- **AP's total fertility rate (TFR)** at all-time **low of 1.5,** significantly below population replacement-level target of 2.1
- At current pace, **23% of Andhra's population could be above 60 years** by 2047

▶**Times have changed, P 10**

Was misquoted, I'm proud of our youth, says CJI

New Delhi: CJI Surya Kant Saturday said he "was pained" by a section of media misquoting his comments on youth.

"What I had specifically criticised were those who have entered professions like the Bar with the aid of fake and bogus degrees. They have sneaked into media, social media, and other noble professions" and are trying to weaken every system like parasites, he said. He said it was beyond his imagination to criticise India's youth with whom he shares mutual respect. TNN

Pune teacher on NTA panel, 'source of NEET biology paper leak', arrested

Gitesh Shelke & Rajshekhar Jha | TNN

Pune/New Delhi: The CBI arrested a junior college teacher from Pune, Manisha Gurunath Mandhare, in Delhi, claiming she was the source of the leak of questions from the biology paper in the NEET UG 2026.

Mandhare was associated with National Testing Agency (NTA) as a subject expert for the exam process and was arrested after interrogation, the CBI said. A biology teacher at Modern College of Arts, Science and Commerce (junior college) in Pune, she is currently on leave.

CBI said Saturday that she had complete access to the botany and zoology question papers. "In April, she had mobilised prospective candidates through one Manisha Waghmare (beauty parlour owner) of Pune, arrested on May 14, and conducted special coaching classes for these students at her Pune residence.

PTI

SFI students at a protest against NTA over paper leak, in Guwahati

2 new joint secys, joint dirs for NTA

Govt Saturday appointed two joint secretaries and two joint directors in NTA, which is facing heat over paper leak. Anuja Bapat, an Indian Statistical Service officer of 1998 batch, and Ruchita Vij, an IRS officer of 2004 batch, have been appointed as joint secretaries. **P 12**

▶**10-day CBI custody, P 12**

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RS/Hero/05/26

Bangalore Times

BETTER SHOOTING DISCIPLINE | TIGHTER SCHEDULES | REDUCED LUXURY

Kamal Haasan urges film industry reset on costs

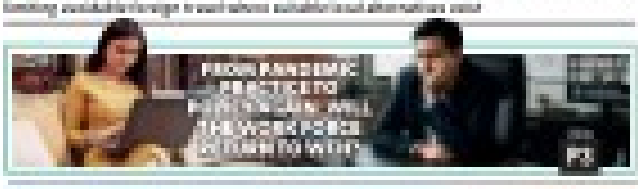
K

"Corruption in cinema economics must not be at the cost of workers"

"Ensure every rupee spent serves the film"

"Rethink shoots in foreign locations"

We must evolve practical and sustainable operating practices for efficient filmmaking. Better planning discipline, tighter schedules, value-for-money and technology adoption, limiting avoidable foreign travel where suitable local alternatives exist

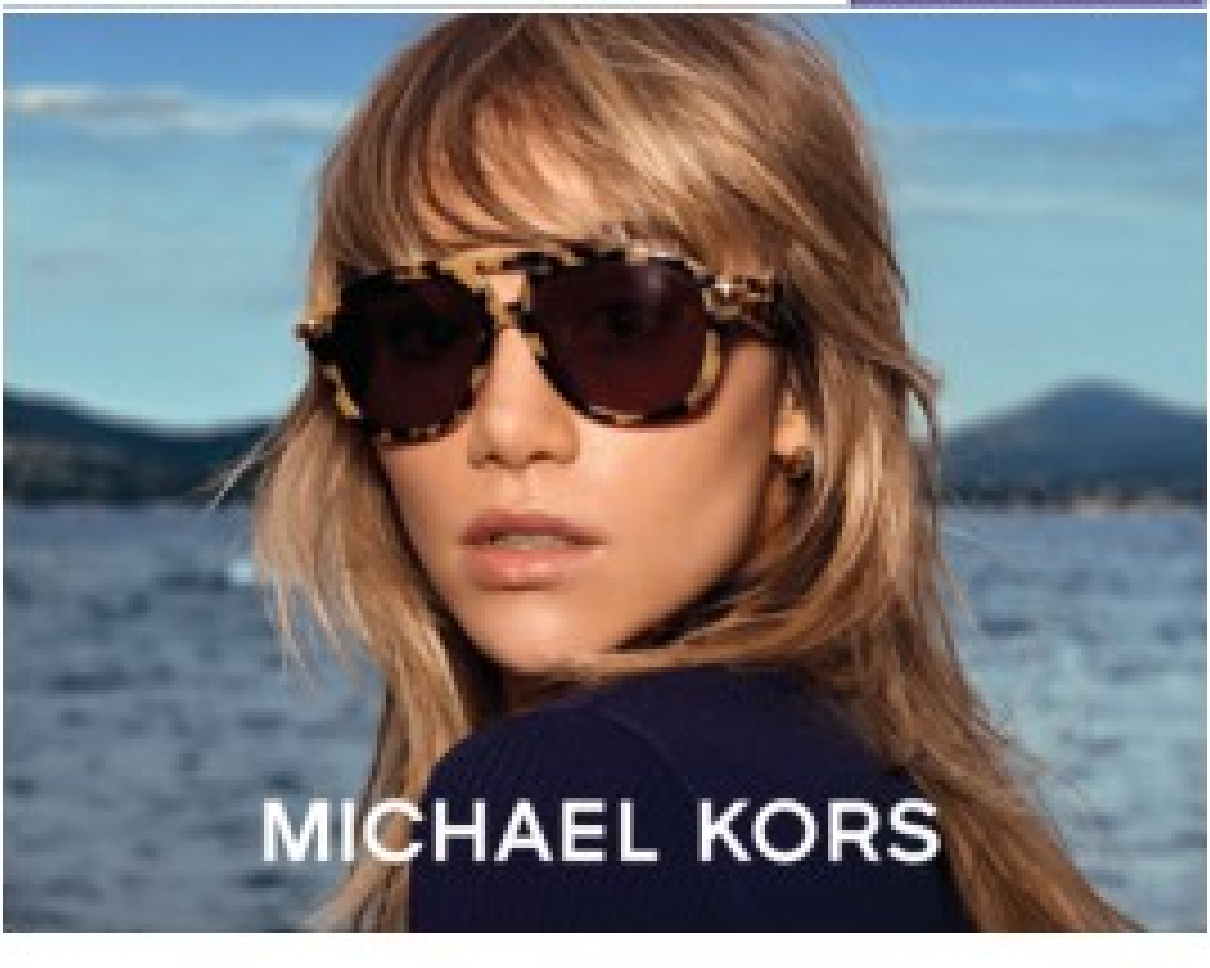


THIS CONCERT IS CANCELLED!

What was meant to be a moment of joy-filled live gigs has descended on a series of postponement and cancellations

T

"Concerts that have been cancelled or postponed this summer"



Left with bloody nose, Metro passenger wins ₹5k after legal battle

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Bengaluru: Grabbing a handle on a Metro coach for support turned painful for a commuter after it snapped, bloodying his nose mid-journey. Alleging that Metro officials ignored his complaint and denied him compensation, the commuter moved the consumer commission, which recently held Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) accountable and ordered compensation.

The saga began on Jan 18, 2025, when 49-year-old MG Nagaraju, a resident of Ganga Nagar Extension, boarded a crowded Metro train from Rajajinagar to KR Market. With no seats available, he stood holding a grab handle for support. As the train neared KR Market station, the handle suddenly snapped and struck him on the nose, causing severe bleeding. The impact also broke his branded spectacles, costing Rs 3,000, and nearly caused him to fall inside the moving coach, before fellow passengers stepped in to help.

CONSUMER IS KING

Nagaraju approached the station controller, who allegedly dismissed his complaint and only allowed him to register it after repeated insistence. Four days later, when Nagaraju followed up with the Metro complaints cell, he was informed that no complaint was received. He alleged that the station controller later shouted at him and refused to cooperate.

On Jan 24, 2025, BMRCL emailed Nagaraju denying liability for medical compensation. Left with no option, he filed a consumer complaint on Feb 10, 2025, seeking Rs 1 lakh compensation, reimbursement of medical expenses, and Rs 3,000 towards his damaged spectacles.

AI

MG Nagaraju, 49, boarded a Metro train from Rajajinagar on Jan 18, 2025. With no seats available, he stood holding a grab handle. As the train neared KR Market station, the handle suddenly snapped and struck him on the nose, causing severe bleeding. The impact also broke his branded spectacles, costing Rs 3,000, and nearly caused him to fall inside the moving coach, before fellow passengers stepped in to help

In its written defence, BMRCL argued that it is a public utility company jointly owned by Karnataka and Union govts, and therefore, should not fall under the ambit of consumer law. It contended that the grab handle assembly — comprising the handle, Kevlar rope, spring, and ceiling attachment — is intended only for light support and not designed to bear a passenger's full body weight. Referring to CCTV footage, it claimed the complainant held the handle with both hands and put his entire body weight on it, causing the Kevlar rope to tear. It maintained that the incident was the result of misuse by the passenger.

The corporation stated that all train equipment undergoes strict daily and weekly inspections and the grab handle in question was found to be in good condition before the incident. It also produced a job card showing the handle was replaced the same day at 11.05am.

BMRCL also denied allegations that officials had refused to register the complaint and questioned the claim for damaged spectacles, pointing out that the purchase bill dated back to 2015. It sought dismissal of the complaint, alleging lack of medical proof and wrongful gain.

The commission pulled up BMRCL for failing to substantiate its defence. Though it repeatedly claimed CCTV footage would prove the commuter had misused the grab handle, it failed to produce said footage before the commission. It also noted that a photograph submitted showed Nagaraju using the handle normally, with no sign of misuse. The commission observed that the corporation had never informed passengers through signboards, announcements or guidelines about how to use the handle bars. In overcrowded coaches, commuters cannot be expected to know the technical limits of handles, it said, terming the lack of communication a deficiency in service.

Rejecting BMRCL's claim that it fell outside consumer law, the commission held that the fare-collecting Metro operator qualifies as a service provider under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

The bench, comprising president Syed Anser Kaleem and members Sharavathi SM and Jyothi N, on May 4 ordered BMRCL to pay Rs 3,000 for the broken spectacles and Rs 2,000 as compensation.

Man, 27, arrested for strangling lover, 47, to death

Times News Network

Bengaluru: A 27-year-old factory worker from Hebbagodi in Electronics City was arrested on charges of murdering his girlfriend after she threatened to file a rape case against him.

Police said accused Rathan Das, 27, had an affair with Anjali Nath, 47, and she was forcing him to marry her. Anjali worked as a domestic help and both were from Assam.

"On May 9 night, they were sitting near Tirupalya lake when Anjali again asked Rathan to marry her. When he refused, she threatened to file a rape case against him. Angered by it, Das strangled her to death, left her body near the lake and fled," a police officer further said.

9k LEDs installed: NPKL sees light at end of road after 9 yrs

Other Basic Facilities Yet To Be Provided

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Bengaluru: Residents of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL), who fought for nearly a decade in court, finally saw their layout lit up with LED streetlights Friday. According to BDA officials, of 9,899 streetlights planned, 9,082 have been installed and 3,918 energised so far. The remaining lights are expected to be ready by June 15.

Allottees said the recent installation of streetlights and progress in road works after nearly nine years, which have been initiated at the behest of BDA chairman NA Haris and commissioner P Manivannan, have revived their hope and many site owners are now considering starting construction.

However, residents pointed out that several basic issues — including water supply, road connectivity, site markings, numbering, theft of cables and infrastructure — still remain unresolved.

A 36-year-old fourth block allottee, who purchased his site in 2017, said: "It may have taken nine years, but getting streetlights now is a positive development. However, not the entire layout has streetlights yet — only blocks where houses have come up are getting them. There is also the issue of theft, with cables and wires being stolen. I am waiting for infrastructure to improve further."

Sanjeev H, 45, an allottee from the fifth block who purchased his site in 2018 for around Rs 24 lakh, said: "Several basic issues still remain unresolved, including road connectivity, site markings, numbering and proper boundary measurements, which are essential before starting construction. We have also raised concerns that buffer zones near stormwater drains and high-tension lines are being shown as parks. Proper parks and playgrounds should be developed for residents. Once these basic requirements are met, we will be ready to begin construction."

Suryakiran AS, joint secretary of NPKL Open Forum, said: "We, site owners, are happy to see basic amenities finally taking shape, with around 85% of motorable road work completed and streetlight works progressing after a nine-year wait. The pending acquisition of 1,000 acres must also be completed soon to resolve continuity and connectivity issues across the layout."

A senior BDA official said: "Even yesterday, we filed an FIR over the theft of a switchboard, and such incidents are happening because the locality is still sparsely populated. Once a substantial number of allottees start building homes, other civic amenities will come up immediately. Parks and related developments will eventually be taken up by GBA after the layout is handed over."

TOI

LIT UP: Of the 9,899 streetlights planned, 9,082 have been installed and 3,918 energised so far. The rest is expected to be ready by June 15

OVER A DECADE OF STRUGGLES

NPKL, a massive BDA housing project, was officially launched in the 2010s. Located in Mysuru and Magadi roads in Yeshwantpur assembly constituency, with over 26,000 plots, the project was severely delayed, leaving approximately 10,000 families in limbo.

Though allotments began over nine years ago, the project missed its Dec 2021 completion deadline. After complaints by allottees, K-Rera flagged NPKL as a lapsed project and ruled that BDA qualifies as a 'promoter' under Rera Act, making the authority accountable for delays.

Since the judgment, over 38 complaints have been filed — mostly over delayed compensation and lack of basic amenities like roads and electricity. BDA has filed an appeal against the Rera order in high court.

Roads almost ready

Nearly 85% of road infrastructure in the layout has been completed, according to officials and residents.

Internal roads that were once inaccessible and covered with mud stretches are now being asphalted. The incomplete housing project, located between Mysuru Road and Magadi Road, has left more than 10,000 primary allottees and others, who purchased plots through auctions in a difficult situation for years.

Wasteward, ho! Apartments in jam over rules, SWM vendor choices

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Bengaluru: Hundreds of apartment complexes in the city are still unable to understand garbage collection norms for bulk waste generators due to a high fog index surrounding the policy, uncertainty over pricing and limited vendor choices.

Even a month after collection of property tax began in the new financial year and solid waste management (SWM) user fees were introduced, most apartment complexes are running into unending obstacles in the policy. A key grievance is classification. Under existing rules, entities generating more than 100kg of waste per day are categorised as bulk waste generators — a bracket that includes apartment complexes alongside malls, cinema theatres, hotels and other commercial establishments.

Sandeepa Gunteeddy, a resident of an apartment complex, said, "Unlike malls or other commercial spaces, apartments do not generate revenue. Yet, the rates are the same for both of us."

Currently, only four empanelled vendors authorised by Bengaluru Solid Waste Management (BSWML) are available across all five city corporations. Bulk waste generators are expected to either process waste in-situ, hand it over to empanelled vendors or opt for waste collection by BSWML directly.

Residents said the major confusion is with pricing. BSWML has capped the maximum charge for unsegregated wet waste at Rs 12 per kg. Beyond this, vendors and apartment associations are expected to negotiate rates.

A resident from an apartment complex under East City Corporation said, "Why are we being charged more? There is no guarantee vendors will not exploit pricing since there is barely any competition. Vendors are now asking Rs 2 to Rs 4 for dry waste. In fact, if we sell the same dry waste to scrap shops, we make money in return."

Residents argued the new system overlooks the fact that many apartment complexes have been investing in segregation and responsible waste disposal for years.

Prabhu Patil, of Rohan Vasantha Apartments, told **TOI**, "The new SWM rules effective from April 2026 are creating considerable concern among bulk waste generators. We've been practising 100% waste segregation for the past 10 years and disposing of waste through empanelled vendors responsibly. The sudden increase in costs — nearly 3-4 times the existing charges — along with the availability of only a single empanelled vendor for the East zone, has become a major concern. We request BSWML authorities to provide more time, vendor options and ensure reasonable, competitive pricing so citizens can better understand, accept and proactively adopt these new rules."

Another resident from an apartment in North City Corporation told **TOI**, "Waste collection is being threatened over OWC (organic waste collector) certification, even though we already have a functional in-situ composting system and the certification is delayed because BSWML officials are unable to visit due to census work. At the same time, there are no clear waste segregation guidelines — collectors are even refusing tender coconut shells as garden waste. Right now, there is complete confusion and chaos around the implementation of the new SWM rules."

On the property tax portal for bulk waste generators, BSWML had introduced an option allowing apartments to choose direct waste collection in cases where in-situ processing or empanelled vendors was not feasible.

While several apartment residents saw this as a possible solution, officials have now clarified the option may not become operational unless all residents within an apartment complex opt for the same model.

During a recent meeting with apartment residents, BSWML officials clarified the agency cannot collect waste from only selected flats within a residential complex. "Only once all the flats in an apartment select the BSWML collection option and pay taxes accordingly can we begin the service. We cannot come and collect waste from only selected flats who opt for this option," a BSWML official said during the meeting.

Where to discard old sofa or mattress? Request on BSWML's DClutter app now

Times News Network

Bengaluru: In a bid to address the growing issue of bulky waste being dumped along roadsides and public spaces, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) has launched a new mobile application, 'DClutter', allowing citizens to schedule doorstep pickup of large household waste items.

The initiative comes as Bengaluru continues to grapple with improper disposal of bulky waste such as old furniture, mattresses, cupboards, broken sanitary fittings, footwear and discarded clothes — items that are often not collected through the regular door-to-door collection system.

According to BSWML, the absence of a structured collection had resulted in such waste frequently being abandoned in public areas, impacting cleanliness and creating environmental concerns.

Before rolling out the app, BSWML had undertaken a trial exercise by deploying tractors to collect bulky waste dumped on roadsides across Bengaluru. During the exercise, nearly 6,000 tonnes of bulky waste was collected, highlighting the scale of the issue.

Through the newly introduced 'DClutter' app, residents can register, select the items they wish to discard and schedule a pickup directly from their homes. Officials said collection will be carried out once a week, depending on the quantity and type of waste. While recyclable material will be processed through authorised recyclers, non-recyclables will be sent to waste-to-energy plants for disposal.

BSWML CEO Karigowda said the initiative has already received encouraging traction, with over 450 requests being registered within hours of its launch.

"We have received good responses and we will act accordingly... it is better that people don't dump it on the roads," Karigowda said, adding that the move is expected to reduce roadside dumping and encourage responsible disposal practices among citizens.

File photo

BULK-Y ISSUE: During trial, nearly 6,000 tonnes of bulky waste was collected through the app, highlighting the scale of the issue

Yelahanka to get ₹6k-cr elevated coaching terminal in 2 phases

Times News Network

Bengaluru: The city's bursting railway network may soon witness one of its biggest infrastructure transformations yet, with the railways planning a ₹6,000-crore elevated mega coaching terminal at Yelahanka — envisioned as the country's first.

A senior South Western Railway (SWR) official said the final location survey for the project has already been sanctioned and a study is underway. "Once the detailed project report (DPR) gets approval from railway board, construction work will start," the official said.

Nearly 300 train operations are handled daily across the city's railway stations, with KSR Bengaluru alone managing around 150 trains every day

According to railway officials, the first phase will include 16 platform lines — eight at ground level and eight on the first floor — along with four shunting lines, eight stabling lines, six pit lines for maintenance and two sick lines. "In phase two, 10 stabling lines, four shunting lines, eight pit lines and three sick lines will be developed," the official added.

On Saturday, minister of state for railways V Somanna reviewed various railway projects in Bengaluru and underlined the urgent need for additional infrastructure. He said nearly 300 train operations are handled daily across the city's railway stations, with KSR Bengaluru alone managing around 150 trains every day.

Calling the Yelahanka terminal a "futuristic project," Somanna said it will significantly strengthen the city's railway network in the coming years.

ALMANAC (17.5.2026)

Vrishabha Masa 2 – Shri Parabhava Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Greeshma Ritu – Tithi: Adhika Jyeshtha Shukla Pratipad h. 21-41 Nakshatra: Krittika h. 14-32 Yoga: Sobhana h. 6-16. 29 Zu'lqada Kali Day 1872712

Rahu Kalam 4.30-6pm

— KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

By 2047, Karnataka plans to use AI to run power grid operations

Times News Network

Bengaluru: With artificial intelligence increasingly seeping into governance across the country, the state's power sector could also use it to its full potential. By 2047, Karnataka aims to run its grid operations fully based on AI-based predictions .

In every asset, distribution and transformer, it will be visible within minutes for things that used to take weeks, said Gaurav Gupta, additional chief secretary, energy department, Saturday.

Speaking at PanIIT Bangalore Summit 2026, Gupta said integrating AI into governance is an area where the state's startups and academia can work together. Stressing on the importance of forecast-based power governance, he said the state is witnessing significant increase in requirement every year.

Additionally, Gupta said, the department could have a digital twin for the energy sector in future similar to the ones used by Bengaluru traffic police. Digital twins will assist in power management banking on data-based simulations and forecasts.

'India at a fork, not in crisis'

Amid the ongoing global fuel and energy uncertainty, chief economic adviser **V Anantha Nageswaran** Saturday said the country stands "at a fork, and not a crisis," and urged India to act with urgency, strategic clarity and institutional confidence to secure its place in a rapidly changing world order.

Speaking at the summit, Nageswaran described the current phase as a defining moment in India's economic and geopolitical journey. "India's potential is not a given. It must be claimed deliberately," he said, stressing the country's future will depend not merely on govts, but on the collective choices made by citizens, industries and institutions.

Docs: High sodium in instant noodles, gobi manchurian causing BP in youths

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Bengaluru: Your daily fix of instant ramen, gobi manchurian and hot chips might be silently contributing to your rising blood pressure, doctors warn, as these sodium-heavy foods can exceed the recommended daily intake in just one meal. With more youngsters being diagnosed with hypertension, doctors say packaged and processed foods are playing a key role in it.

According to doctors, instant noodles are among the biggest contributors. "On an average, a packet of ramen or instant noodles contains 1,200–2,000mg of salt. According to the WHO, less than 2,000mg of sodium, or about one teaspoon of salt, should be consumed daily. This means a single packet can supply between 60 and 100 per cent of the daily salt intake limit. Once other foods are consumed through the day, the limit is easily surpassed," said Dr Pradeep Kumar D, senior consultant — cardiology, Sakra World Hospital.

Doctors also point to frequent consumption of fried snacks and restaurant food in urban areas.

"In urban areas, mean salt consumption has reached 9.2g per day. Snacks like gobi manchurian, chakli and packaged popcorn are major contributors to high blood pressure because of their extremely high salt content used for flavour and preservation. Restaurant-prepared gobi manchurian frequently relies on heavy amounts of soy sauce and ketchup, occasionally packing over 4,300mg of sodium into a single serving," said Dr Sandeep S Reddy, consultant, department of general medicine, Ramaiah Memorial Hospital.

Dr Ramakrishnakumar S, consultant cardiology-adult, Narayana Health City, explained, "When you ingest high levels of sodium, your body enters a state of water retention to dilute the excess salt in the bloodstream. Sodium pulls water into your blood vessels, increasing the total volume of blood the heart must pump. This causes an immediate, temporary spike in blood pressure. Over time, these frequent spikes damage the delicate lining of the blood vessels, leading to chronic issues."

Doctors say sodium often goes unnoticed compared to sugar or oil, making it a "hidden threat" in modern diets. Dr Ramakrishnakumar noted hidden sodium is particularly dangerous because it is difficult to identify. "While you can see oil or taste sugar, sodium is often masked by other flavours or used as a leavening agent in baked goods. Even healthy-looking items like bread and salad dressings are loaded with it. This leads to accidental overconsumption, where an individual may believe they are eating clean, while actually doubling their required salt intake," he said.

However, doctors stressed that people do not need to completely avoid their favourite foods, but should focus on mindful consumption. "Youngsters can dramatically reduce their sodium intake without sacrificing taste by adopting low-sodium salt substitutes enriched with potassium for daily cooking. Additionally, minimising the use of commercial seasonings and preparing meals with fresh ingredients drastically cuts hidden sodium while preserving food quality," Dr Kumar said.

Doctors also advised youngsters to undergo regular blood pressure tests every year, as lifestyle factors remain one of the major contributors to hypertension.

WAYS TO REDUCE SALT IN FOOD

- Use only 50% of tastemaker or masala provided in instant foods
- Increase intake of potassium-rich foods such as bananas, spinach and coconut water
- Choose products with less than 120mg of sodium per 100g
- Reduce consumption of packaged foods and snacks
- Use natural spices, herbs and lemon instead of excess salt

WORLD HYPERTENSION DAY TODAY

METRO WRAP

EV rider hits truck on slippery highway, dies

Bengaluru: A 57-year-old EV bike rider was killed after crashing into a truck that came to a sudden halt on rain-soaked Bengaluru-Nelamangala highway near Huskur Cross Saturday noon. The victim is Lokesh PM, a sales executive. Police said heavy rain had made the highway slippery when the truck moving ahead applied sudden brakes. Unable to control his bike, Lokesh rammed directly into the rear side of the truck, suffering fatal injuries on the spot. The truck driver fled, leaving the vehicle behind.

Jewellery outlets raided

Bureau of Indian Standards conducted raids at two jewellery establishments as part of its drive against violations of hallmarking regulations. Raids were carried out at Panchkesari Badera Jewellers outlets in Jayanagar and Chickpet, and around 1.6kg of gold ornaments worth nearly Rs 2.8 crore were seized. The ornaments allegedly did not carry the mandatory Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) markings, violating provisions of BIS Act, 2016.

At-home brewing becomes a design statement

Not your usual leather

WINDOW TO THE WORLD

FASHION'S MOST DEFIANTLY UGLY SHOES

The floor beneath our memories

POV

Lack of evidence: City court acquits man in marital abuse case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A court in the city Friday acquitted a man of the charges of subjecting his wife to unnatural sex during the initial days of their marriage. The accused, Vikram Vincent, was also acquitted of the remaining charges, including domestic violence and crimes under the IT Act.

Vikram, a resident of Ejipura, runs an EdTech (educational technology) startup in the city and got married in 2015. The case was registered with Viveknagar police station in 2017 by his wife, accusing him of marital harassment, unnatural sex, and circulation of explicit content to her family.

In 2022, the accused first moved Karnataka high court to quash the FIR registered against him. The aggrieved spouse filed a writ petition for reinvestigation. A combined order was passed for both and the court then pulled up police for "shoddy investigation". Finally, passing the orders, the trial court, stating there was insufficient evidence against Vikram, freed him of the charges.

Counsel for Vikram, Sanjay Sugumaran from Arcadia Legal Services, said revised statements by the complainant and lack of medical and technical evidence saw the court acquit his client.

"The trial court acquitted the accused on all counts, citing material contradictions in the prosecution's narrative, which evolved across multiple statements. The court deemed these discrepancies substantial, destroying witness credibility and failing to meet the 'sterling witness' standard. Furthermore, the case lacked contemporaneous medical evidence, as examinations revealed no injuries despite claims of repeated painful acts on the complainant. Crucially, electronic evidence failed to meet statutory requirements under the Evidence Act, with forensic analyses failing to connect the accused to the alleged transmissions," he said.

Skull, bones found on lakebed

Bengaluru: Chaos prevailed at Mugaluru lakebed in Sarjapur, Bengaluru Rural, Saturday when residents found a human skull and few bones scattered nearby.

Police examined the remains and shifted them to the forensic science laboratory. Other than the skull, police found a jaw, upper limb bones, a torn sari, and women's footwear from the spot. "The jaw is seperated from the skull and the front five teeths are missing. The missing teeth play a vital role in identifying the body, which we suspect to be of a woman, aged between 25 and 35. Therefore, we are collecting details of missing women of this age group from our state as well as Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh," a senior cop said. TNN

Man's body exhumed for reinvestigation

Bengaluru: Police have exhumed the body of a 40-year-old-man, who died in March of a suspected heart attack, and sent it for postmortem to know the real cause of death.

Imtiyaz Pasha had collapsed in his Rameshnagar residence after dinner. He was shifted to a nearby hospital, where he died. His wife, Nasira Bhanu, told relatives that Pasha had complained of severe chest pain before his death. Pasha was later buried in the cemetery in the locality.

However, Pasha's younger brother Yonus recently approached HAL police, expressing suspicions over the death. "I have found that Nasira Bhanu wanted to marry her friend, Aslam. Therefore, there is every possibility of my brother being killed in his house," Yonus told police. Accordingly, Pasha's body was exhumed Thursday and experts from Bowring hospital collected his bones, skull, and other viscera samples. "Once we find the reason behind the death, we can decide the future course of action," a cop said. TNN

Man stabs pal to death during prank, arrested

Bengaluru: City police arrested a hospital housekeeping staffer on charges of stabbing his friend and colleague to death after the victim abused him for hiding his mobile phone.

The accused is Ramu, in his late 20s, and the incident took place on May 10 when the victim, Parashuram Ellappa Mangalagatti, returned from duty. "Parashuram went for a bath and Ramu hid the phone. Knowing it was Ramu's prank, Parashuram pleaded with him to return the phone. When Ramu continued to plead his innocence, Parashuram lost his cool and abused him. Ramu, who was under the influence of alcohol, stabbed Parashuram with a kitchen knife and fled," a cop said.

With the help of his neighbours and friends, Parashuram received treatment at a hospital before travelling to Hubballi, his hometown. However, he died earlier this week. "I did it as a joke and never realised the stab wound would prove fatal," Ramu told police. TNN

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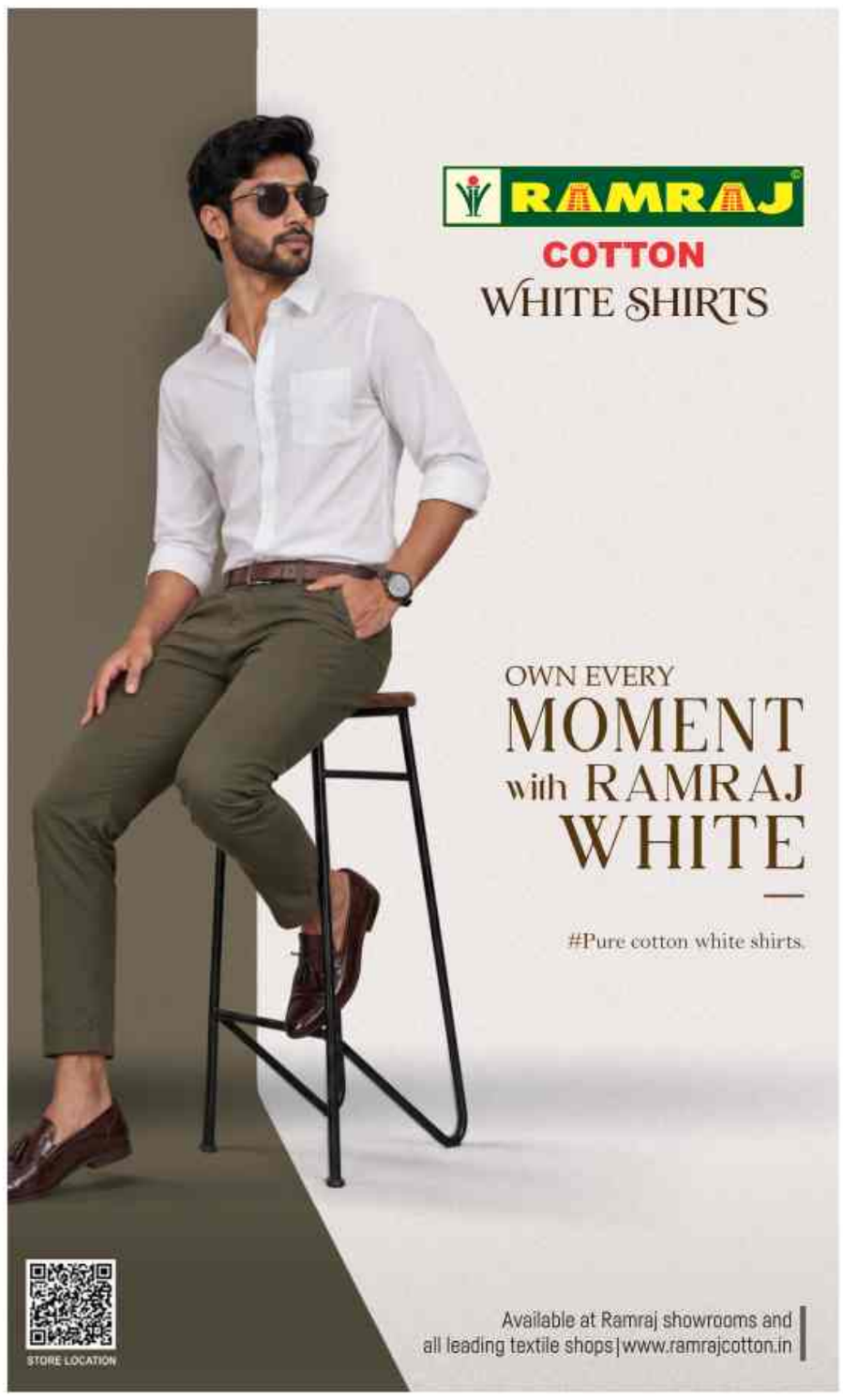

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Six years after COVID, the work-from-home debate is back

W

Companies explore hybrid options

'Remote work can feel isolating'

Hybrid work is the most practical middle ground

REALITY CHECK: FEDERATION RELEASES ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT AT CONVENTION

Delivered as Promised? Muslim forums question govt's record

Niranjan.Kaggere
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: As Siddaramaiah-led Congress govt prepares to celebrate three years in power on May 19 under the slogan "Delivered as Promised," a growing wave of discontent is rippling through Karnataka's Muslim community — which had overwhelmingly united behind Congress in the 2023 assembly elections to defeat BJP.

Three years later, many in the community say hope has turned into disappointment, betrayal and political abandonment.

At the Karnataka Muslim Convention held Saturday, Karnataka Federation of Muslim Organisations — an umbrella body representing hundreds of Muslim outfits and Jamaats — released an "accountability report" on promises made by Congress to the community, along with a charter of demands detailing why Muslims feel let down by state govt.

Convention coordinator Suheil Ahmed Maroor said the gathering was not directed against any political party or individual, but aimed at questioning Congress govt on its promises and delivery. "For the first time, grassroots workers — puncture repairers, tailors, plumbers, welders and others — are demanding accountability from the govt," he said. Maroor also alleged attempts were made to disrupt the event, but claimed the convention forced immediate action from the govt. "All our struggles met with success when the govt revoked the hijab ban within less than three hours of our press briefing," he added.

Community leader Harris Siddiqi said Muslims had faced continuous targeting through policies such as the CAA, Waqf Amendment Bill and the proposed SIR exercise. Muhammad Yaseen Malpe, a functionary, said: "When the community stood by Congress during the polls, isn't it our responsibility to ask the govt what it has done on those promises?"

PROMISES OF CONTENTION

Syed Asif

INDIGNANT: Members of Muslim organisations and activists release the report on Congress govt's unfulfilled promises in Bengaluru Saturday

Action against communal hate organisations: Community alleges state govt has failed to act decisively against groups accused of repeatedly spreading hate and fear. Organisations linked to Sangh Parivar continue to hold rallies, processions, and public programmes across Karnataka, often passing through sensitive areas and near mosques, triggering tension in local communities. Very little restriction and action against habitual offenders.

Revoke ban on hijab in schools: The previous BJP govt order on hijab became one of the most painful symbols of exclusion for Muslim girls in Karnataka. In Dec 2023, CM Siddaramaiah promised to withdraw the order, raising hopes across the community. But for nearly three years, no formal decision followed. Ironically, after years of inaction, the govt reportedly moved to revoke the order within hours of the Muslim convention press meet questioning Congress' unfulfilled promises.

Withdraw cow slaughter prevention Act: The cow slaughter prevention Act continues to affect the livelihoods of farmers, cattle traders, butchers, transporters, leather workers, small eateries and Muslim meat traders across Karnataka. Congress had opposed the law and promised to repeal "unjust and anti-people" BJP-era legislations. But in a move seen as contrary to its poll promise, the animal husbandry minister later clarified in the legislature that govt had no proposal to repeal the Act.

Muslim reservation: Perhaps the biggest and most politically charged promise was restoration of 4% reservation for Muslims under Category 2B. After BJP govt scrapped the quota in March 2023 and redistributed it to Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities, Congress had fiercely opposed the move. DK Shivakumar assured Muslims that the quota would be restored in the very first cabinet meeting. Three years later, however, it still remains elusive.

Repeal of anti-conversion bill: In June 2023, the cabinet decided to repeal the controversial law brought in by previous BJP regime and table a bill in the assembly. But after several sessions passed, the bill mysteriously disappeared from the agenda. Despite a formal cabinet decision, the govt never tabled or passed the repeal legislation, leaving the anti-conversion law fully operational.

Oppose SIR: The community has raised alarm over the proposed Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, fearing a repeat of controversies seen in Bihar and West Bengal. Civil society groups warn that errors in names, addresses, and documents could become tools for disenfranchisement, particularly against Muslims, migrants, dalits, students and women. While Siddaramaiah govt assured that no genuine voter will suffer, critics say there is still no concrete mechanism to prevent arbitrary deletions and harassment. The community wants govt to formally oppose SIR.

DEADLINES SET TO WALK THE TALK

By monsoon session 2026

- Restore and legally defend 4% category 2B reservation
- Table and pass repeal/replacement of cow slaughter bill
- Table and pass cabinet-approved anti-conversion law repeal bill
- Notify communal hate, hate speech and vigilantism monitoring authority
- Set up state-level SIR protection and voter assistance task force
- Correct Muslim representation in 2026 legislative council
- Set deadline for Madhusudhan Naik caste survey implementation

By budget session 2027

- Announce pathway to ₹10,000-crore annual minority welfare allocation
- Launch Karnataka Inclusive Minority Urban Renewal Mission
- Restructure Arivu, post-matric, overseas scholarship, and professional-course support

Consultation On One Nation, One Election

BJP & JD(S) support, Cong says bid to weaken regional parties

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TOI

NOT ON THE SAME PAGE: DCM DK Shivakumar submitted a copy of the Karnataka assembly resolution to parliamentary panel chief PP Chaudhary

Bengaluru: The ruling Congress and opposition BJP-JDS alliance traded blows over the proposed One Nation, One Election plan during a consultation meeting convened by the Joint Parliamentary Committee of Lok Sabha Secretariat in Bengaluru Saturday.

While BJP and JD(S) backed simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly elections, Congress called it an attempt to weaken the federal structure and marginalise regional parties.

Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar rejected the proposal during the meeting and submitted a copy of the Karnataka legislative assembly resolution opposing the move to the committee. He alleged the initiative was politically driven and aimed at benefiting the ruling dispensation at the Centre.

Questioning the practicality of synchronising elections in a diverse democracy, Shivakumar asked what would happen if a govt lost majority midway through its term.

"Elections are held at different times in different states for different terms. Karnataka had its election three years ago, Tamil Nadu and Kerala had theirs recently, while Punjab and Telangana went to the polls at different times. How can all these elections be synchronised?" he asked. He reiterated that the Karnataka govt stood by the Congress high command's opposition to the proposal.

BJP's Karnataka unit, led by president BY Vijayendra, submitted a memorandum supporting simultaneous elections across the country. The party argued that a common election cycle would reduce poll expenditure and minimise repeated disruptions to administration and governance. After the consultations , PP Chaudhary, chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee examining the proposed constitutional amendments related to simultaneous elections, defended the concept, saying repeated polls impose a heavy financial and administrative burden on the country.

Chaudhary said frequent elections require large-scale deployment of officials, security personnel and public infrastructure, affecting governance and increasing expenditure.

He claimed simultaneous elections could save up to Rs 7 lakh crore over time and improve administrative efficiency.

"Govt schools are used as polling stations and teachers are repeatedly diverted for duty. Welfare delivery and administration also get affected because officials are constantly engaged in poll-related work," he said. Chaudhary said India had previously conducted simultaneous elections and noted that institutions such as the Election Commission and NITI Aayog had supported the concept. He also referred to the committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, constituted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which studied the issue and submitted a report on the proposal.

On concerns over hung assemblies or collapse of govts before completion of terms, Chaudhary said fresh elections, if required, would be held only for the remainder of the five-year cycle. He added that if political consensus emerged, simultaneous elections could be implemented by 2034.

Gowda flags 'land mafia' in Bidadi project, writes to Sonia & RaGa

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A fresh political row has erupted over the proposed Bidadi township project, with former Prime Minister and JD(S) national president **HD Deve Gowda** alleging that a powerful "land mafia" is operating in Karnataka under Congress govt's patronage.

A day after Union minister HD Kumaraswamy accused deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar of turning Bidadi township into a "real estate business", Gowda said he had written to Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, besides chief minister Siddaramaiah, raising concerns over land dealings and restructuring of development authorities in Ramanagara region.

"I was elected from Ramanagara, and I also became the Prime Minister with the support of the people. Having so much of a relationship with people of that area, it pains me to see how the five corporations have been formed by the present govt at the behest of Congress," Gowda said. Without directly naming Shivakumar, he linked the formation of the corporations to alleged land dealings. "I don't want to take his name. He is the irrigation minister. The five corporations are also under his control. This is how the land mafia is working," he alleged.

The JD(S) patriarch claimed Siddaramaiah is helpless because of internal power equations within the cabinet. "I have written to CM Siddaramaiah also. But he is unable to take steps because the other side is holding the powerful portfolio," he claimed.

On Friday, Shivakumar had dismissed Kumaraswamy's allegations, saying it was politically motivated. "If Kumaraswamy does not criticise us, he cannot survive politically. We do good work, and he opposes it. We are only continuing the project that he himself started. I will fix a date and time to go speak with farmers," Shivakumar had said.

IN SHORT

Cabinet panel to examine SEP report

The govt Saturday constituted a cabinet sub-committee to examine the final report submitted by State Education Policy (SEP) Commission and recommend the course of action on its findings.

Home minister G Parameshwara will head the six-member panel. The other members are law and parliamentary affairs minister HK Patil, social welfare minister HC Mahadevappa, revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda, medical education and skill development minister Dr Sharan Prakash R Patil and higher education minister MC Sudhakar.

The sub-committee has been tasked with scrutinising recommendations of the SEP Commission and submitting its report to the govt for consideration.

According to an official memorandum issued by the cabinet secretariat, the decision was taken based on the cabinet meeting held on May 7. The higher education department will provide the panel with all necessary secretarial and administrative support in accordance with the Karnataka Government (Transaction of Business) Rules- 1977.

The SEP Commission was constituted by the govt to prepare a policy framework tailored to Karnataka's educational needs after the state decided to formulate its own education policy. The commission recently submitted its report to the govt.

BJP chief takes Metro, hits out at Cong over fuel prices

BJP state president BY Vijayendra travelled by Namma Metro Saturday (in pic) to attend party programmes, saying he was following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for austerity amid global economic challenges and rising fuel prices.

"At a time when the world is facing economic challenges, every citizen should think about this. He (PM) has given a call to switch to buses and public transport. As the state president of the party, it is my duty to follow his appeal," Vijayendra said. On PM Modi reducing convoy vehicles, Vijayendra said BJP's national leadership is also practising austerity. "It is a good thought. We need to minimise the use of vehicles," he said. Targeting Congress govt over fuel prices, Vijayendra accused it of repeatedly increasing levies on petrol and diesel. "Without any corresponding price rise at the Centre or global level, the Congress govt in Karnataka increased fuel prices by imposing higher taxes," he alleged.

Opposition leader R Ashoka alleged that milk prices, electricity tariffs, bus fares, water charges, property tax and Metro fares had all increased under the Congress govt.

Doddalahalli school named after DKS father

The govt has renamed Karnataka Public School at Doddalahalli in Kanakapura taluk, the native village of deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, as Sri DK Kempegowda Karnataka Public School.

The school education department issued the order Thursday following a recommendation from Samagra Shikshana Karnataka and based on a proposal submitted by Shivakumar.

Shivakumar had recommended that the school be renamed "Sri DK Kempegowda Karnataka Public School, Doddalahalli." The order cited the donation of 3 acres and 20 guntas of land by the Kempegowda family for development of the school and to support education for children in the rural area.

Kempegowda is the name of Shivakumar's father. Govt guidelines issued in Oct 2021 permit Karnataka Public Schools to be named after individuals or organisations that make significant contributions to their establishment or development.

The govt has approved the renaming with effect from 2026-27 academic year.

AC vent fall wakes mom just in time as bus catches fire

Deepthi.Sanjiv@timesofindia.com

The private bus in which Vaishnavi and her 10-year-old daughter were travelling caught fire in Hassan district early Saturday. As flames engulfed the vehicle, Vaishnavi alerted passengers to evacuate and swiftly pulled her daughter to safety

Mangaluru: What began as a routine overnight journey from Surathkal to Bengaluru turned into a fight for survival for Vaishnavi and her 10-year-old daughter after the private bus they were travelling in caught fire near Shantigrama in Hassan district early Saturday.

Vaishnavi said a falling AC vent likely saved their lives. She had boarded the bus at 9.30pm Friday with her daughter, occupying lower berths 8 and 9. After working on her laptop until the bus entered the ghats section where network connectivity drops, she went to sleep.

"Around 1.30am, I shut my laptop and went to sleep. An hour later, the bus stopped somewhere in Hassan and I noticed the driver and cleaner moving around as if something was wrong. We felt the crew may have sensed an issue but still decided to continue since Bengaluru was less than 200km away," she told **TOI.**

The bus resumed its journey but stopped again near Shantigrama. Within moments, panic erupted. "Smoke started entering the bus. But the crew did not shout or ask passengers to leave," she said. "The moment that probably saved my life was when the AC vent suddenly fell on my face and woke me up completely. That is when I could smell the smoke strongly."

As passengers urged the driver to stop, Vaishnavi woke her daughter and rushed out. "We had no slippers, no bags, nothing. I only had my phone because I usually keep it in my pocket while travelling through the ghats section. Everything else — laptop, purse with important cards, jewellery, clothes — was inside," she said.

As flames engulfed the bus, Vaishnavi screamed for passengers to get out before dragging her daughter to safety. "I ran as far as I could thinking the bus might explode. At that moment, I only wanted to save my child," she said. She later saw passengers still scrambling out as passing motorists, bus drivers and locals rushed to help with water and fire extinguishers. Fire and emergency services personnel arrived around 3.15am.

"My clothes smelled of smoke. I could still hear sounds and felt like smoke was everywhere around me," she said. With most Bengaluru-bound buses full due to the peak travel season, some buses offered standing space to stranded passengers. Eventually, Vaishnavi and her daughter boarded a KSRTC Sarige bus.

"I had no money in hand. I held my daughter tightly all the way to Bengaluru, trying to hold back my tears. She was still in shock. Only after reaching home did I break down completely," she said.

"I lost my documents, jewellery, clothes and laptop. My daughter had also carried her dance costume and jewellery after recently completing her junior dance exam to perform before the family. We are grateful to have escaped alive, but strongly feel the crew should have warned passengers earlier," she said.

Applications for five med colleges pending

▶Continued from page 1

Apart from the sanctioned increase, 10 private medical colleges have sought NMC approval for an additional 700 seats. Applications for five new medical colleges — three govt and two private — are pending before the commission.

Under CSS, medical colleges are eligible for a development grant of Rs 1.5 crore per seat. The approved increase will translate into funding of Rs 1,683 crore, of which the Centre will contribute Rs 1,037 crore and the state govt Rs 646 crore. An MoU for the funding will be signed between the Karnataka secretary of medical education and the Union ministry of health and family welfare. The Union ministry had issued revised guidelines last Nov, inviting proposals under the scheme for 'Strengthening and upgradation of existing medical colleges in India'.

Karnataka subsequently submitted a detailed project report based on gap analysis of faculty strength, civil infrastructure, and equipment. Final approval was granted on May 15.

"Funds will come in four instalments. The seats will now have to be approved by NMC, based on the infrastructure built using these funds. We will add these additional seats to the seat matrix with a rider that these are subject to NMC's approval," said Sujatha Rathod, director of medical education, Karnataka. On the alleged NEET paper leak, minister Patil criticised the Centre, saying: "The entire academic calender will now be delayed. Counselling — which is usually a common one for medical and engineering — will now get pushed back. There are higher-ups involved in this scam.We wrote last year, and will again write this year, to allow states to conduct this exam."

MBBS, PG SEATS IN K'TAKA FOR 2025-26

Colleges	Number of colleges	UG seats	PG seats
Govt	22	3,950	2,140
ESI	2	300	108
Private	14	2,595	1,400
Minority colleges	12	2,450	1,418
Private universities	10	1,850	908
Deemed	12	2,800	1,753
Total	72	13,945	7,727

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02.12.1932 - 17.05.2010
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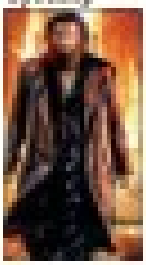
Your Principles & Ideologies are always the guiding force for us.
Wife: (Smt) H.B. Thangyamma & Children

Delhi HC gives nod to OTT release of Dhurandhar: The Revenge with Oye Oye song



Circadian amber is taking over interiors in 2026

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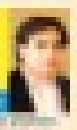

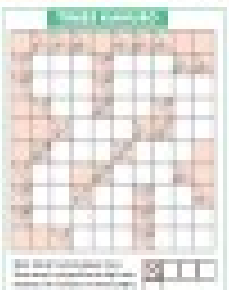

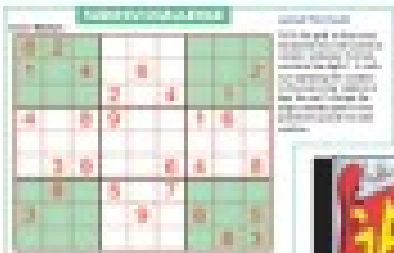

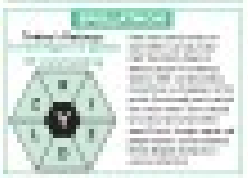

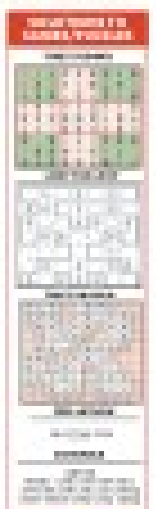

KIA soars past 400mn flyer milestone

GLOBAL TAKEOFF: International Traffic Powers Record Passenger, Cargo Growth At Airport

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Marking a major milestone in its aviation journey, Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) surpassed the 400-million passenger mark in April since the start of its operations, cementing its position as one of the country's most dynamic air hubs. The achievement comes on the back of a robust surge in international passenger traffic and sustained cargo growth in FY 2025-26.

According to Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), the airport handled 44.4 million passengers and 5.3 lakh tonnes of cargo during the year. International passenger traffic grew 24% to 7.2 million, while domestic traffic rose 3% to 37.2 million passengers. Overall passenger traffic increased 6% year on year.

"This performance, despite geopolitical and sectoral headwinds, reflects Bengaluru's increasing global relevance as a business and innovation hub. KIA currently offers non-stop connectivity to more than 78 domestic and 34 international destinations," a statement from the chief minister's office (CMO) said. The figures were reviewed at the 134th board meeting of BIAL chaired by chief secretary Shalini Rajneesh.

The airport also climbed from 48th to 41st place in the Skytrax World Top 100 Airports rankings. It won the 'Best Regional Airport in India and South Asia' award for the third consecutive year and 'Best Airport at Arrivals Globally' at the ACI ASQ Awards for the fourth straight year.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC
44.4 million passengers | Domestic: **37.2 million** (+3%) | International: **7.2 million** (+24%), | Overall growth: **6%**

FLIGHT MOVEMENTS
2.8 lakh ATMs (+5%) | **769** average daily flights | **837** peak flights | **1.4 lakh** peak passengers

CONNECTIVITY
78+ domestic and **34+** international non-stop destinations

CARGO
5.3 lakh tonnes (+6%) | **15 cargo** airlines linking **38** destinations

File photo

GOING STRONG: Cargo and overseas travel helped produce a robust year for KIA despite the West Asia conflict having an impact

MAJOR CARGO HUBS
Chicago, Singapore, London Heathrow, Frankfurt, Shenzhen, Hong Kong

PERISHABLE EXPORTS
Roses: 60 million stems, volume +38%, tonnage +64% | **Mango** exports +12% | **Coriander** exports +13%

AWARDS AND RANKINGS
Skytrax Best Regional Airport in India and South Asia (3rd year); ACI ASQ Best Airport at Arrivals Globally (4th year); Skytrax rank improved from 48 to 41

ACCREDITATIONS
Level 5 Customer Experience, Level 3 Accessibility

Steady cargo activity

Cargo operations posted steady growth, supported by exports of flowers, fruits, pharmaceuticals and electronics. The airport retained its position as India's leading gateway for perishable exports for the fifth consecutive year. Officials said the airport handled nearly 60 million rose stems during the year, with volumes rising 38%. Mango exports grew 12% to a five-year high, while coriander shipments increased 13%. Meanwhile, operational activity also touched record levels. The airport recorded 2.8 lakh air traffic movements during the year, up 5%, with average daily flight movements at 769. On its busiest day, the airport handled 1.4 lakh passengers and 837 flight movements.

Mysuru's Doora village sees 51mm rain in 24hrs

Lawrence.Milton@timesofindia.com

Mysuru: Doora village in Mysuru taluk recorded 51mm of rain over a 24-hour period, ending at 8.30am Saturday, according to data released by Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre. Doora is located about 15km from Mysuru city.

Heavy rain also lashed Mysuru city late Friday night and early Saturday morning, uprooting trees and damaging public utilities, particularly power infrastructure. Authorities, however, confirmed that no loss of life was reported.

Elsewhere in the region, Chikkaanakanahalli village in Mandya district recorded 40mm of rainfall during the same period. Maldare village in Kodagu district received 30.5mm of rain, while Chikkati village in Chamarajanagar district also recorded 30.5mm. Several parts of Mysuru district witnessed moderate rainfall, while neighbouring Mandya, Kodagu and Hassan districts experienced light to very light showers.

The latest observations from the disaster monitoring centre show scattered rainfall activity across southern Karnataka, with Mysuru district recording the highest rainfall levels in Old Mysuru region.

TOI

DAMAGE: Heavy showers, accompanied by gusty winds, left a trail of destruction in Mysuru early Saturday morning

Court upholds cancellation of gift deed over mother's maintenance

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court has dismissed a petition filed by a woman challenging an order of the assistant commissioner of Mysuru cancelling a gift deed executed by her mother.

The mother, a retired govt school teacher, had gifted her property to her daughter and son with an understanding that the rental income would be utilised for her benefit. However, when they failed to provide basic amenities and drove her to live in a rented house, the mother approached the assistant commissioner, who cancelled the gift deed on Oct 8, 2025, under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

The woman's daughter challenged the order, arguing that there was no express stipulation in the gift deed about taking care of her mother.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum noted in his April 27 ruling that the material on record unmistakably demonstrates that pursuant to transfer by way of gift, the daughter acquired the ground floor and the son the first floor, and both were admittedly deriving rental income from the property that originally belonged to the mother.

SENIOR CITIZEN NEGLECTED

- Retired teacher alleged her children abandoned her after taking over her property
- Mother had transferred property to daughter and son with an understanding that rental income would support her welfare
- HC noted the children continued earning rent while the elderly woman was forced to live in rented house

However, in a distressing contrast, the mother was compelled to reside in a rented house, bereft of both shelter in her own property and the benefit of income arising from it. The judge said these circumstances clearly show the transfer was based on an implied promise of care and maintenance.

"The fact that the petitioner-daughter, who herself owns an independent house, continues to enjoy rental income from the gifted property while allowing her aged mother to languish in a rented house, is a glaring instance of failure to honour not only a moral obligation but also a statutorily recognised duty. The non-contestation by the son further fortifies the inference that the transfer has resulted in abandonment of the senior citizen," the judge observed while dismissing the daughter's petition.

HC quashes LOC issued against Saudi-based man

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court set aside the lookout circular (LOC) issued against Abdul Khadar Nihad, a resident of Ulaibettu in Dakshina Kannada district who works as a driver in Saudi Arabia.

"The state cannot, under the guise of investigation, reduce a citizen to economic destitution. The constitutional guarantee under Article 21 is not confined to mere animal existence but extends to dignified survival and economic freedom," Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum noted in his order passed on April 29.

The 27-year-old petitioner is facing proceedings in a criminal case registered against him under Sections 351(2), 352, 353(1)(c) and 192 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, in relation to an inflammatory social media post, and was arrested last year upon arrival at Bajpe airport in Mangaluru. Though Nihad was released on bail and his mobile phone returned, the LOC issued against him continued and he was not allowed to travel abroad. This forced him to approach the high court.

After perusing the materials on record, Justice Magadum pointed out that Nihad was already arrested and interrogated, enlarged on bail by a competent court and no longer in possession of any incriminating material. "The petitioner has cooperated with investigation; he is on bail and his presence can be secured through conditions. Yet, the state seeks to impose a blanket travel embargo, which is neither necessary nor proportionate. The LOC, in its present form, operates as a civil death of the petitioner's livelihood, especially when his employment is situated abroad," the judge pointed out.

The impugned action, therefore, fails the test of fairness, reasonableness and non-arbitrariness. The continuation of LOC, despite the petitioner being on bail, is arbitrary and disproportionate, he added.

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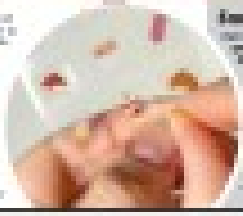


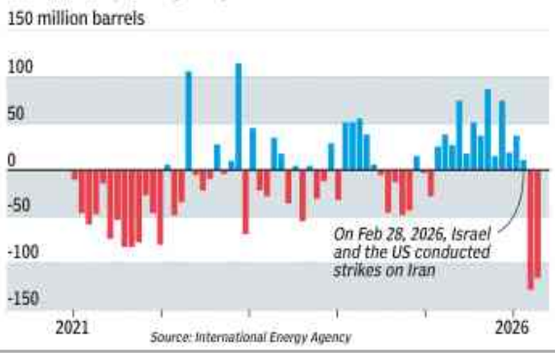
How to: Elevate a soirée with edible floral décor

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

How Iran war has hit oil security globally

The Iran war has led to the steepest fall in global oil inventories since 2021 — depleting strategic reserves of crude and refined fuels stored by countries to cushion supply shocks

Monthly change in global observed oil inventories



Source: International Energy Agency

After doubling customs duty, govt restricts silver import

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Silver imports have been surging in recent months as prices have shot up in the global market, both as an investment instrument as well as for use in industrial sector

New Delhi: Days after more than doubling the customs duty, govt on Saturday moved in to restrict the import of certain types of silver as part of its strategy to reduce surging shipments of bullion.

In a notification, the directorate general of foreign trade moved silver bars containing 99% or more of the metal as well as "other" silver bars into the "restricted category" against "free" earlier. This means that imports will only be allowed after a licence is issued by the govt agency, a move that is typically used to stem the import of certain goods based on the requirements domestically.

Silver imports have been surging in recent months as prices have shot up in the global market, both as an investment instrument as well as its multiple use in the industrial sector.

Unlike gold, where value of imports has increased even as volume has reduced in the last financial year, silver imports shot up two-and-a-half times to $12.1 billion, while the volume jumped 42% to 7,335 tonne. The trend continued in April as well with the latest commerce department data showing that the value of imports soared 2.6 times to $411 million.

The curbs come barely a week after PM Narendra Modi appealed to citizens to cut down on non-essential imports and defer gold purchases. Earlier this week, govt jacked up import duty on gold and silver from 6% to 15%

There was speculation that the move was necessitated by the trade agreement with the UAE where govt has committed to reduce customs duty on silver by a percentage point every year. Currently, import duty on silver from UAE is pegged at 7%, providing for a tariff arbitrage.

The commerce department did not immediately respond to a query from TOI.

Army chief warns Pak over terror activities

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a stern message to Pakistan over cross-border terrorism, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday referred to Op Sindoor launched after the Pahalgam terror attack and said if Islamabad continues with terror-related activities, "they have to decide whether they want to be part of the geography or history or not".

At the Sena Samvad event, the Gen Dwivedi lauded the capabilities of the tech-savvy generation and the Army's plans to utilise their potential. "Let me firstly concede and accept that the generation is at least 10 times better than our generation. They are much more adaptable, socially aware, globally connected, and digitally fluent...The Indian Army is talking about 2026-27 as the year of networking and data centricity. We have started the internship, and we received one lakh applications for 100 vacancies," he said.

The Army chief also spoke about rapid technological changes and their impact on military modernisation. Gen Dwivedi, who retires on June 30, also shared a personal dream of opening a cafe named 'Ahista Zindagi'.

At the same event, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said Op Sindoor differed from past conflicts as it involved multi-domain, non-contact warfare.

Ties with Delhi to depend on Ganges treaty: B'desh min

Ahsan.Tasnim | TNN

Dhaka: Prime Minister Tarique Rahman-led BNP in Bangladesh on Saturday said future Bangladesh-India relations would largely depend on renewal or conclusion of the Ganges water-sharing agreement, stressing that a short-term deal would be insufficient.

"This treaty must be indefinite and remain effective until replaced by a future agreement," said BNP secretary general and local government, rural development and cooperatives minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir while addressing a BNP discussion marking Historic Farakka Day.

Without adhering to international laws and conventions, India had built one dam after another on 54 common rivers flowing into Bangladesh, disrupting their natural flow, the BNP second-in-command claimed.

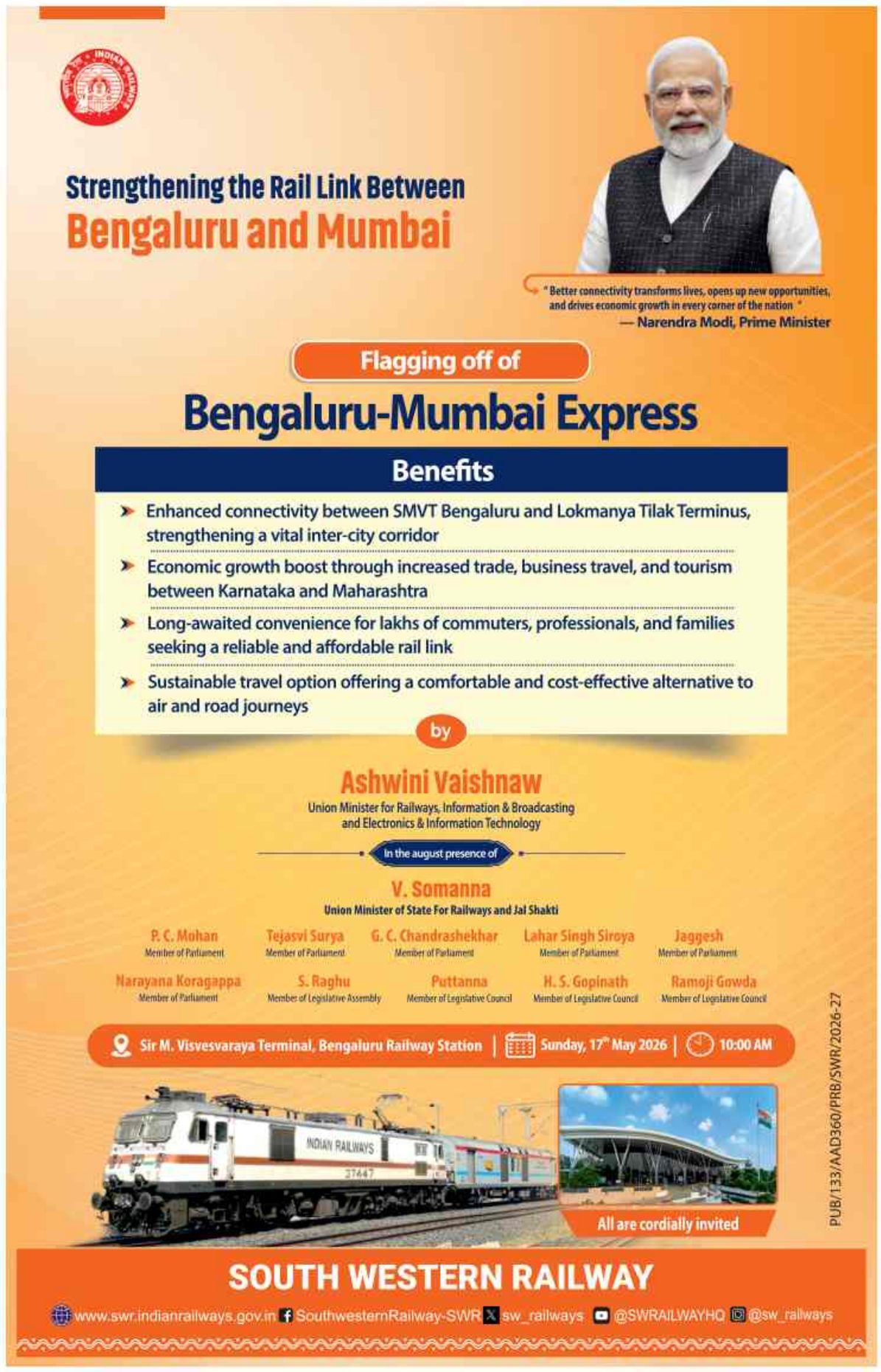
"India's unilateral withdrawal of water in its favour has become a threat to Bangladesh's existence. Signs of the country turning into a barren wasteland are already emerging," he said.

The Ganges Water Treaty, signed on Dec 12, 1996, for a period of 30 years, expires this year, but discussions on its revision or renewal have not yet begun. Bangladesh and India share 54 rivers, including the Ganga or Ganges. To address related issues, the two countries operate a bilateral mechanism known as Joint Rivers Commission.

> **"India's unilateral withdrawal of water in its favour has become a threat to Bangladesh's existence. Signs of the country turning into a barren wasteland are already emerging"**
> FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR
> BNP secretary general and minister of local govt, rural devpt and cooperatives

Meanwhile, Opposition leader in Parliament and Jamaat-e-Islami's Ameer Shafiqur Rahman said people were tired of promises over Teesta Master Plan and wanted concrete action.

"It is not enough to chant slogans like 'Jago Bahe, Teesta Bachao' only before elections. The people living along the Teesta are now awakened. They want their rights and legitimate demands fulfilled. The state must show sincerity toward their demands," he said at a civic gathering at Rangpur Shilpakala Auditorium on Friday evening.



Virat Kohli's century sparked celebrations at this Koramangala hot spot

Rare blue-green diamond sells for over ₹148 crore

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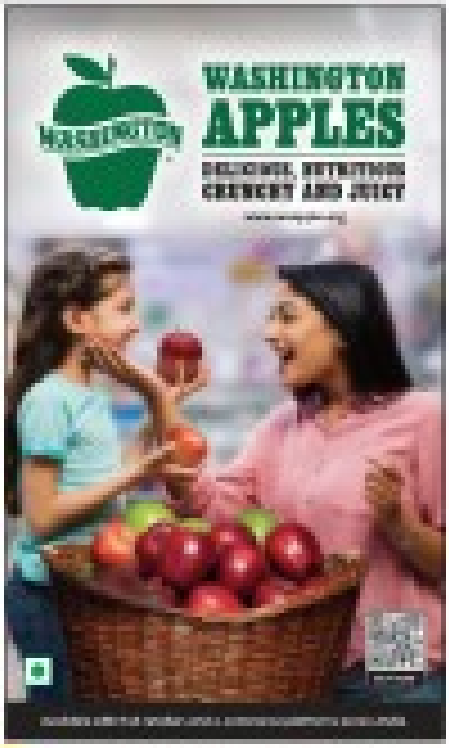
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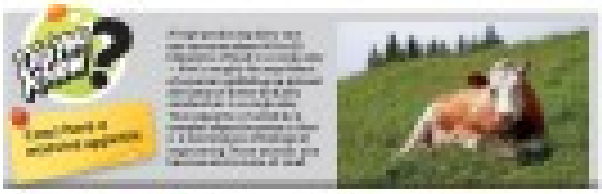
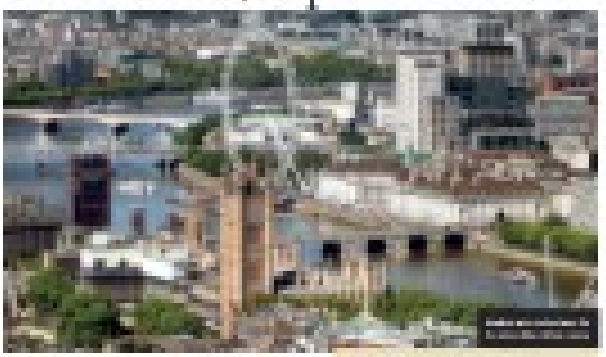
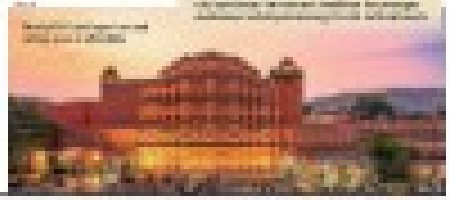
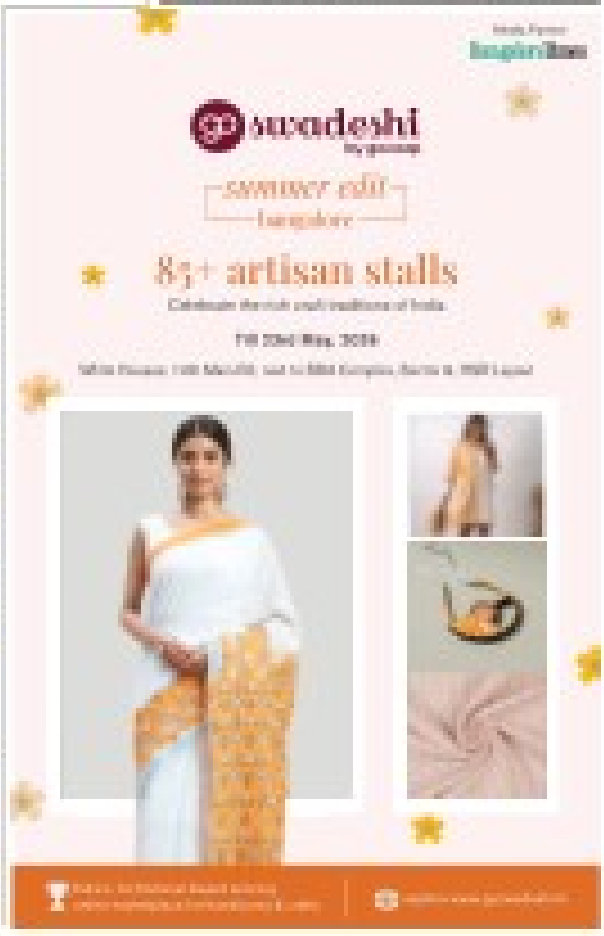


London declared world's top cultural hub; Jaipur ranks 18th



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- LECTURERS : for Science/Commerce/Hindi/English and Physical Education
Qualification : M.Com / MA with B.Ed / M.Ed.

ADARSH INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
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real estate

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ACCOUNTANT

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MEDICAL

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MARKETING, ADVERTISING & SALES

MARKETING

WANTED BUSINESS EXECUTIVES
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WALK IN

Walk-in- Interview
India's Leading Biggest Group
HSR Layout/ Koramangala Whitefield
Date: Saturday 16th May
Time:10 a.m. to 1p.m
Venue: West Fort Hotel, Rajajinagar, Bangalore.
- Team Leaders- Retired or Homemakers also can apply 30yrs to 60 yrs
- Financial Advisors-25yrs +SSLC Passed
- Sales Staff- Retired or Homemakers also can apply
- Others- Graduate, Freshers can also apply.

For Interview: **6364563490**

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Contact:
adminvitatech@gmail.com
M : 9686915114 / 9686830228

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- Consultant/Junior Consultant - Neurology (DrNB/DM)
- Visiting Thoracic Surgeon - MCh (TS/CTVS) /DrNB (TS/CVTS)
- Part time Endocrinologist - (DM/DrNB)
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Candidates with knowledge of English & Kannada speaking compulsory
e-mail CV to : branddirector@khtagencies.com

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business

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Abhishikt Asani S/o Joseph Asani R/o Begur, Bengaluru have changed my name from Abhishikt to Abhishikt Asani for all future purposes

LOST & FOUND

I, SUNIL BALAGAVI, S/o T.B. Balagavi, residing at No.120, MIG, KHB Colony, 2nd Stage, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bengaluru – 560079, have lost my SSLC Marks Card, PUC Marks Card, Degree Marks Cards, and Degree Certificate. If anyone finds the above-mentioned documents, kindly hand them over to the nearest police station.

THANKSGIVING

WITH gratitude, we thank Saint Jude for the many blessings bestowed upon us. May His blessings and favor be shining upon everyone, always. Jyothi, Manuel, Jenita

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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
- Strong, dedicated team of real estate marketing professionals
- Proven experience in Bengaluru's residential segment
- Track record of successful project launches
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- Transparent reporting & performance metrics

SCOPE OF WORK
- Brand identity & campaign strategy
- Digital — social media, SEO, paid ads & portals
- Print, outdoor & on-ground activations
- Lead generation & CRM support
- Site branding & all marketing collateral

How to Apply
01 Agency profile & team credentials
02 Real estate project portfolio
03 Proposed marketing approach (brief)
04 Commercial proposal

EMAIL US: marketingchannelpartner2026@gmail.com
WHATSAPP ONLY: +91 98866 77787 (WHATSAPP MESSAGES ONLY)

Developer identity and complete project details will be disclosed exclusively to shortlisted agencies under a signed Non Disclosure Agreement. All submissions are treated with strict confidentiality.
ELECTRONIC CITY - HOSUR ROAD BENGALURU | OWNER SHARE 2026

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Film speaks beyond all boundaries - Adoor Gopalakrishnan

I came to Cannes as a student of cinema, not for fashion: Priyanka

CANNES WATCH

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WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Casting for the next 007 is underway

FILM REVIEWS

A feel-good family entertainer made with sincere storytelling

Should you watch it?

Review in short

A paranormal thriller that finds its footing in the second half

Should you watch it?

Review in short

Union minister's son surrenders in Pocso case

Hyderabad: Union junior home minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son Bandi Bageerath surrendered before Telangana police late Saturday after high court refused interim protection from arrest in a Pocso case. Police recorded the minor girl's statement before a magistrate Saturday. Police said Bageerath surrendered around 8pm. Officers said he arrived wearing a hoodie and mask.

Bageerath faces charges under Section 5 of Pocso Act relating to aggravated sexual assault on a minor, punishable with imprisonment up to 20 years. Cyberabad police had intensified searches after Telangana HC declined to shield him from arrest Friday night and posted further hearing to May 21. Investigators searched several locations, including the minister's official residence in New Delhi.

"Immediately after the case was registered against my son, I considered bringing him to police. Based on advice given by my lawyers we tried to get bail, which led to a delay," said Bandi Sanjay, the BJP MP for Karimnagar. TNN

Farmer dies rescuing grandson from borewell

Hyderabad: A 55-year-old farmer died Saturday while attempting to rescue his four-year-old grandson who had fallen into an open borewell in Utlapally village of Telangana's Nalgonda district, **reports Mahesh Buddi**.

Police said the children were playing in the field when Himansh fell into the borewell. His grandfather, Venkanna, leaned into the borewell while trying to rescue the boy but lost his balance and slipped in, headfirst.

SUN PHARMA SCIENCE FOUNDATION

ATTENTION SCIENTISTS & YOUNG RESEARCHERS: SUN PHARMA SCIENCE FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS 2026 OPEN

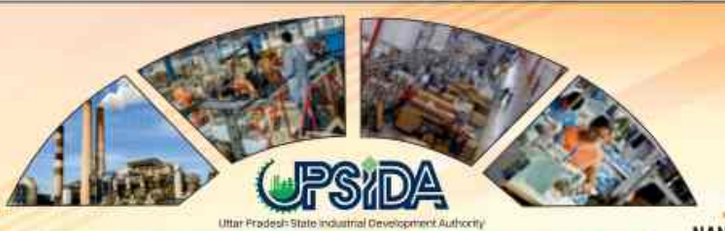
Sun Pharma Science Foundation invites nominations for Research Fellowships and Science Scholar Fellowships for the year 2026, starting May 15, 2026. The last date for applying is July 15, 2026. Details of the nomination process for both fellowships are available at **www.sunpharmasciencefoundation.net.**

Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Fellowships recognize excellence in original research in Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences by Indian scientists working in India or overseas. There are three fellowships - one each in Medical Sciences - Basic Research, Medical Sciences - Clinical Research and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Each fellowship carries a trophy, citation and a cash prize of ₹ 500,000 (Rupees Five Lakh).

Sun Pharma Science Foundation Science Scholar Fellowships are offered to promising young Indian researchers under the age of 30, for their research projects. There are four fellowships - two each in Bio-Medical Sciences and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Each fellowship carries a citation and a cash prize of ₹ 100,000 (Rupees One Lakh), and a lump sum grant of ₹ 100,000 (Rupees One Lakh) to present posters/abstracts at an international conference.

To apply please visit **www.sunpharmasciencefoundation.net.**

YOGI ADITYANATH
Hon'ble Chief Minister, U.P.



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Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority

NAND GOPAL GUPTA 'NANDI'
Minister for Industrial Development, U.P.

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Nivesh Mitra Plots

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1	Etah	Orni	6	=2.5-12	48	2540
2	Amethi	Trishundi	4	=0.37	1	4110
3	Bareilly	Mega Food Park Baheri	8	=0.15-21	81	2920
4	Jhansi	GC Jhansi	9	=0.05-0.25	1	3750
5	Kannauj	Perfume Park	11	=0.18-0.84	5	5730
6	Kanpur	Ramaipur-Footwear Park	14	=0.37	5	4600
7	Raebareilly	Salon (Rbl)	23	=0.44-11	49	2420
8	Moradabad	SEZ Moradabad	349	=0.02-3.22	144	5920
9	Pratapgarh	ATL-Pratapgarh	15	=1-17.4	34	3785
10	Prayagraj	Saraswati Hi-Tech City	45	=0.24-7.10	47	10860

Online Applications for the Allotment of plots are invited from **17.05.2026** onwards

Schemes and other information shall be regularly updated on Nivesh Mitra Portal and UPSIDA Website www.onlineupsida.com

*UPSIDA reserves the right to change the planned area at any point in time.

Infrastructure Planned

- Plot sizes: 1000 Sq. mtr and above
- Wide Internal Rods &Intemnal Street Lights
- Adequate Power Supply Arrangement
- Well Planned Green Area
- Water Supply, Drainage & Common Facilities

Policy Incentives Highlights

UP Industrial Investment & Employment Promotion Policy (UPIEPP), 2022
- Capital Subsidy: Up to 30% of ECI
- Net SGST Reimbursement: Up to300% of ECI
- Stamp duty exemption: Up to 100%

UP FDI/FCI, Fortune Global 500 & FortuneIndia 500 Companies investment Promotion Policy 2023
Capital Subsidy: Up to 35% of ECI •
Front End Land Subsidy: Up to 80%•
100% Stamp duty & Registration fee waiver•

For Information regarding the registration & e-auction process
Helpline No: Himanshu Tripathi - 94515 46902
Email: iasectionupsidc@gmail.com
(Monday to Friday 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM and 1st & 3rd Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM)
For registration Info: Niveshmitra.up.nic.in

UPSIDA
Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority
UPSIDA Complex A 1/4 Lakhanpur, Kanpur-208024

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEURO SCIENCES
INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE
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Website: http://www.nimhans.ac.in

Ref. No.: NIMH/A&E/EA1/UG/AY 2026-27 Date: 16.05.2026

ADMISSION NOTICE

Online Application are invited for admissions to the following Under Graduate courses for the Academic Year 2026-27:

Sl. No.	Name of the Course	Total Seats	No. of Seats for Institute Supported Category	No. of Seats under Sponsored / Deputed Category
	B.Sc. Courses			
1.	**B.Sc. in Anaesthesia Technology:**	11		
	a. All India Category (UR – 03, OBC – 01)	04	04	-
	b. Karnataka Domicile Category (UR – 05, OBC – 01, SC – 01)	07	07	-
2.	**B.Sc. in Nursing:**	85		
	a. All India Category (UR – 16, EWS – 03, OBC – 09, SC – 05, ST – 02)	35	35	-
	b. Karnataka State Domicile Category (UR – 22, EWS – 05, OBC – 13, SC – 07, ST – 03)	50	50	-
3.	**B.Sc. in Medical Imaging Technology:**	11		
	a. All India Category (UR – 03, OBC – 01,)	04	04	-
	b. Karnataka State Domicile Category (UR – 05, OBC – 01, SC – 01)	07	07	-
4.	**B.Sc. in Clinical Neurophysiology Technology**	07		
	a. All India Category (UR – 02)	02	02	-
	b. Karnataka Domicile Category (UR – 03, OBC – 01)	04	04	-
	c. Sponsored Category	01	-	01
	Certificate Course			
1.	**Certificate Course in Panchakarma**	05*		-
	a. All India Category (UR – 02)	02	02	
	b. Karnataka Domicile Category (UR – 02)	02	02	
	c. Sponsored Category	01		01
	*Each category shall be filled by one male and one female candidate, as per the course requirements.			

The Entrance test will be conducted in Bengaluru city only on 26.07.2026 (Tentative).
Kindly refer to 'Admission Notification for undergraduate courses of the Academic Year 2026-27' or 'UG Prospectus 2026-27' on the NIMHANS Website for more details http://www.nimhans.ac.in

Sd/-, DIRECTOR

I I I T Bhubaneswar
Imagine. Innovate. Inspire.
(A University established by the Government of Odisha)

No.: IIIT-Bh/12545/29/Dir Date : 15.05.2026

ADMISSION (Ph.D)

IIIT Bhubaneswar is an ambitious initiative of the Government of Odisha to establish a next Generation Institute of Technology and has been conferred University status.

Application received date for **Doctoral Programme (Ph.D)** as follows :

Starting date of online application : **08th May 2026**
Last date of submission of online application : **25th May 2026**
Date of written test and interview : **28th - 29th May 2026**
Date of publication of result : **05th June 2026**
Date of provisional registration and commencement of classes : **1st July 2026**
For further details, please visit : **https://www.iiit-bh.ac.in/Admission/ph-d/**

DIRECTOR

AT : Gothapatna, PO : Malipada, Bhubaneswar - 751003, Odisha, India, Web : www.iiit-bh.ac.in

DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, (GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI)
3RD FLOOR, BLOCK 1, DMRC IT PARK, SHASTRI PARK, DELHI- 53
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LiFE Lifestyle for Environment

No. DPCC/(3)(9)(412)Admn.2026/

ENGAGEMENT OF TRAINEES ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

Applications are invited for Engagement of Trainees on contractual basis in DPCC as details under:

Name of the Post	Qualifications	Monthly Stipend (Rs)	No. of Trainees (Tentative)	SC	ST	OBC (NCL) Delhi	EWS	UR
Trainee	**Qualifying Examination:** **(i)Technical Trainee:- Bachelor Degree in Engineering (B.E. / B.Tech) -** Civil / Environmental / Chemical / Electrical / Mechanical / ECE / Biomedical Engineering / Water Resources / Remote Sensing / GIS / Hydrology Or Equivalent Qualification(s) **(ii) Scientific Trainee: - Master's Degree in Science (M.Sc.)** Biochemistry / Microbiology / Life Science/ Chemistry/ Environmental Chemistry/ Analytical Chemistry / Toxicology Or equivalent qualification(s) With First Division on Full Time Regular basis from Recognized University / Institution completed in year 2023 or later. Candidates having qualifying score of GATE/NET- 2023, 2024, 2025 or 2026 will be preferred.	**25,000/-** (1st Yrs) **26,500/-** (2nd Yrs) **28,000/-** (3rd Yrs)	150	22	11	40	15	62

The detailed information in this regard, may be seen at the DPCC website: **www.dpcc.delhi.gov.in** under the head **"What's New."** Application should be submitted through online mode only as per the link provided, within **21 days** from the date of publication of advertisement on the DPCC website. Application submitted in physical form or any other mode, will not be accepted/ entertained. Corrigendum etc, if any, shall be put on the official website of DPCC, candidates should visit the website from time to time.

Sd/-
Admn. Officer, DPCC

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A TIMES INTERNET INITIATIVE

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New Delhi

GOVERNMENT SPEAKERS

SRIBHARAT MATHUKUMILLI

AMITABH KANT

SANJAY KUMAR

DEBASHREE MUKHERJEE

ABHISHEK SINGH

PROF ABHAY KARANDIKAR

HIMANSHU GUPTA

IRA SINGHAL

GOVERNMENT SPEAKER
PROF PANKAJ ARORA

GOVERNMENT SPEAKER
DR DEEPAK BAGLA

GOVERNMENT SPEAKER
DR JOSEPH EMMANUEL

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
RONNIE SCREWVALA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
VISHNU MANCHU

HIGHER EDUCATION SPEAKERS

DR DIANE SMITH-GANDER AO

PROF V KAMAKOTI

PROF BHARAT BHASKER

PROF. SUMAN CHAKRABORTY

PROF KAMAL KISHORE PANT

PROF ALOK KUMAR RAI

PROF NALINIPRAVA TRIPATHY

SAGE SANJEEV AGRAWAL

DR. SIDDHARTH CHATURVEDI

DR VIDYA YERAVDEKAR

PROF (DR) C RAJ KUMAR

DR PRASHANT BHALLA

SCHOOL EDUCATION SPEAKERS

SUDHA GUPTA

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JAINA DESAI

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+91 9958837797 | abhishek.tomar@timesinternet.in

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, BENGALURU

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 17(1) & (3) OF BDA ACT 1976

No. BDA/BBC80LAC/1/2026/BBC8, Bangalore Date: 23.04.2026

Whereas it appears to the Bangalore Development Authority, that the lands specified in the Schedule hereto are likely to be required for the public purpose i.e., for the **"formation of Peripheral Ring Road (PRR)" Between Hosur Road - Mysore Road and Tumkur Road (Part-II)** in the outskirts of Bengaluru City.

Notice to that effect is hereby given to all whom it may concern in accordance with the provisions **of Sub-Section (1) & (3) of Section 17 of Bangalore Development Authority Act 1976** (Karnataka Act No. 12 of 1976).

In accordance with Section 36 of **BDA Act, the Special Land Acquisition Officer, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru,** his staff and workmen are hereby authorized to exercise the power conferred under **Section 4(2) of Land Acquisition Act 1894.**

Any persons interested in the land may prefer his/her objections within **30 days** from the date of publication of this Notification to the **Special Land Acquisition Officer, Bangalore Development Authority, T.Chowdaiah Road, Bengaluru-560 020.**

In respect of column No.2 of this notification where Khatedars name is not mentioned, any person having interest in these lands may also prefer their objection with relevant Revenue Records to prove their title over land within 30 days from the date of publication of this notification.

All persons interested in the said lands are hereby warned not to obstruct or interfere with any Surveyor or any persons employed upon to the said lands for the purpose of said Acquisition. Any contracts for the disposal of the said lands by **Sale, Mortgage, Assignment, Exchange or otherwise or any outlay or Improvements** made there-in without sanction of the **Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition), Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru-560 020,** after the date of publication of this Notification shall under **Section 24 (Clause Seventhly) of the Land Acquisition Act 1894,** be disregarded by the Officer assessing compensation for such parts of the said lands as may be finally acquired.

The particulars of the Scheme, the **Maps** of the area comprised therein and the statement specifying the lands which is proposed to be acquired may be seen in the **Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, Bangalore Development Authority, Bengaluru,** during the office hours on all working days.

SCHEDULE

Name of the District	Name of the Taluk	Name of the Hobli	Village Name	Page No.
Bengaluru Urban	Bengaluru South	Beguru	Basavanapura	1

Sl. No.	Name of the Khathedars / Anubhavadars Smts/Sriuthas	Sy. No.	Hissa	Whether/ Dry / Wet/ Garden	Total Extent A	Total Extent G	Kharabh Extent A	Kharabh Extent G	Remaining Extent A	Remaining Extent G	Assessment	Extent Proposed for Acquisition A	Extent Proposed for Acquisition G	Boundaries East	West	North	South
1	2	3	4	5	6		7		8		9	10		11	12	13	14
	Village: Basavanapura			**Hobli: Begur**									**Taluk: Bengaluru South**				
1	Rashmidevi W/o Sajjanrao	9	3	Dry	4	30	0	21	4	9	9.90	3	2	Road	8/4, 7	9/2	9/3 Part

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Commissioner, Bangalore Development Authority

US citizen held at Chennai airport for voting in TN polls

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: A 64-year-old US citizen was detained by immigration officials at Chennai airport on Friday night on the suspicion that he illegally voted in the recent Tamil Nadu assembly elections. With this, immigration officials have detained at least 18 foreign nationals at different airports, and have handed them over to the respective police stations.

The latest passenger, identified as Kishore, arrived at the airport to board an Emirates flight to Dubai, from where he was scheduled to travel onward to the US.

During routine immigration checks, officials noticed indelible ink — used to mark voters during elections — on the index finger of his left hand.

On questioning, Kishore told police he voted in the Virugambakkam assembly constituency on April 23. As he was travelling on a US passport, officials treated the act as a violation of election rules. Immigration authorities held him back and initiated steps to hand him over to Chennai crime branch for further investigation and legal action.

The arrest comes amid an intensified crackdown on foreign citizens of Indian origin who allegedly participated illegally in the recent assembly elections. According to officials, the Election Commission received intelligence inputs suggesting that several overseas Indians holding foreign citizenship cast votes during the polls.

Following the alert, immigration authorities at airports, particularly in Chennai and Madurai, were instructed to closely inspect departing international passengers for indelible ink marks.

Tamil Nadu's chief electoral officer, Archana Patnaik, was not available for comment, despite repeated attempts.

Vijay keeps home dept for himself

Finance For Sengottaiyan, PWD For Lottery Baron's Son-In-Law

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Six days after assuming office, Tamil Nadu CM C Joseph Vijay Saturday finally unveiled the first round of portfolio allocation, retaining for himself 16 departments, including key portfolios such as home, municipal administration, women welfare, youth welfare, special programme implementation, and urban and water supply.

Lok Bhavan released the list of portfolios for nine other ministers, besides Vijay. With allocation of crucial departments such as higher education, revenue, HR&CE (Hindu religious & charitable endowments), tourism and information technology still pending and 25 more ministerial berths open, suspense over the other faces in the cabinet has been kept alive.

Among the ministers sworn-in on May 10, veteran K A Sengottaiyan is the most experienced face and has been given finance. He had earlier served as school education minister in the AIADMK govt between 2016 and 2021. One of the notable changes from the previous dispensation is the bifurcation of youth welfare and sports development portfolios. While Vijay has kept youth welfare, sports development has been handed over to Aadhav Arjuna, who is also the president of the Basketball Federation of India. Besides sports, Aadhav has been given charge of the public works department.

Veteran actor and Makkal Needhi Maiam president Kamal Haasan calls on Tamil Nadu CM Vijay, in Chennai on Saturday

Earlier in the day, CM's secretary P Senthil Kumar submitted the list of portfolios to officials at Lok Bhavan, following which the announcement was made. Despite the portfolio allocations, a large part of the administration is yet to become fully functional. Several departments continue to operate without ministers, delaying meetings and policy decisions. The delayed allocation comes amid ongoing negotiations between Vijay's TVK and Congress, and with the rebel faction of AIADMK over possible inclusion in govt. TVK sources indicated that another round of portfolio allocation and even a reshuffle could follow once the discussions conclude, with some major departments likely to be handed to Congress and rebel AIADMK legislators.

Among other ministers, S Keerthana has been assigned industries, while N Anand was allocated water resources and rural development. K G Arunraj, a doctor, will handle the health portfolio. C T R Nirmal Kumar will oversee energy resources and law, while Rajmohan was assigned school education, Tamil development and archaeology, besides information and publicity.

Lucknow varsity asst prof held for harassing girl

Anjanaya Singh | TNN

Lucknow: A zoology assistant professor at Lucknow University (LU) was arrested Saturday on charges of outraging the modesty of a girl student. The teacher was detained on Friday night by Hasanganj police after an FIR was lodged against him based on a complaint by the LU administration.

Police produced the accused before a local court, which remanded him to judicial custody for 14 days.

Investigators have seized the accused's laptop and mobile phone, which will be sent to the forensic science laboratory for examination. ACP Mahanagar Ankit Kumar, the investigating officer, said, "If needed, we will seek police custody and remand for further interrogation."

Police said the complainant's statement could not be recorded before a magistrate as she cited uneasiness and health-related issues, and sought additional time.

Captagon, drug used by IS operatives, seized in Delhi; Syrian held

Rajshekhar Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted a major international drug trafficking network and seized captagon, a highly addictive psychotropic substance used by Islamic State operatives in West Asia, which gave it the name, 'jihadi drug. This is India's first ever seizure of captagon.

The mega operation resulted in the arrest of a Syrian national, Alabras Ahmad, and recovery of 227.7kg of captagon tablets and powder, worth around Rs 182 crore. Primarily containing fenethylline and amphetamine, captagon is heavily regulated under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Posting on X, Union home minister Amit Shah called the seizure and arrest "shining examples" of the govt's commitment to zero tolerance of drugs.

"I repeat we will clamp down on every gram of drugs entering India or leaving the country using our territory as the transit route," he wrote.

The breakthrough came in Delhi on May 11, after NCB acted on actionable intelligence provided by a foreign drug law enforcement agency indicating that India was being used as a transit zone for the drug. NCB sleuths identified and raided a rented residential property in south Delhi's Neb Sarai, which led to the initial recovery of 31.5kg of captagon tablets.

SYRIA HUB

- Captagon is a **highly addictive** synthetic drug, largely mass-produced in Syria and smuggled to Gulf states
- Cheap to make, takes form of **powder and tablets**, marked by two overlapping crescents. Banned globally in 1980s
- Cheap to make, it induces **prolonged wakefulness and aggression**, hence called 'poor man's cocaine'

The contraband was found meticulously concealed inside a commercial chapati-cutting machine, which preliminary probe revealed was to be exported to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. Ahmad, who was managing logistics here, had rented the Delhi hideout. He had entered India on a tourist visa in Nov 2024, which expired in Jan 2025. Following his interrogation, the focus of the operation shifted to Gujarat. On May 14, NCB intercepted a suspicious cargo container at Mundra port. The container was shipped from Syria with sheep wool declared as its official consignment. But a physical examination of the cargo exposed three hidden bags containing 196.2kg high-grade captagon powder. Investigators also established that this massive consignment was intended for transshipment to destination markets across the Gulf region, where captagon dependency has triggered severe law enforcement and public health crises.

The operation, sources said, underscored how international intelligence-sharing and multi-jurisdictional cooperation were vital to intercepting global cartels. It also pointed to an alarming trend of syndicates exploiting commercial maritime cargo and container routes.

Times have changed since govts encouraged family planning: Naidu

▶ Continued from page 1

Naidu said times have changed since govts encouraged family planning and that children were the real wealth today.

The mean average age in Andhra Pradesh is 32.5 as against India's average of 28.4 years. Female workforce participation in the state is 31 against the national average of 37.

The CM had earlier announced free education for the third child up to 18 years of age. He has also announced opening of fertility clinics, among other measures, to boost population growth in the state.

RAYALASEEMA UNIVERSITY
KURNOOL – 518007 (A.P.) INDIA

CORRIGENDUM to Recruitment Notification for Assistant Professor Positions for Regular Vacancies
(Notification No. 01/RU/Regular/ T.Estt./Recrut./Assistant Professors/2026, Dt. 15.05.2026)

In partial modification of the Recruitment Notification cited above, the department-wise allocation of Assistant Professor (Regular) vacancies is hereby revised as detailed below:

S.No.	Name of Department	Earlier	Now Notified	Remarks
1)	Biotechnology	01	00	Withdrawn
2)	Botany	02	03	Revised
3)	Civil Engineering	02	04	Revised
4)	Commerce	02	00	Withdrawn
5)	Mathematics	02	03	Revised
6)	Mechanical Engineering	02	00	Withdrawn
7)	Operations Research & Statistical Quality Control (OR&SQC)	02	03	Revised

The allocation in respect of all other departments remains unchanged

The total number of vacancies (38) remains unchanged. The revised detailed notification containing the revised department-wise and category-wise vacancy breakup, has been uploaded on the University website: https://rukap.edu.in/ and https://apuniversitiesrecruitment.apcfss.in.
Receiving of the online applications will commence from 16.05.2026.
The last date for submission of online application is 08.06.2026 (by 5.00 pm IST) and the last date for submission of hardcopy is 15.06.2026 (by 5.00 pm IST).
University Call Center: 9494410216 from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM
Date: 16.05.2026 Sd/- REGISTRAR

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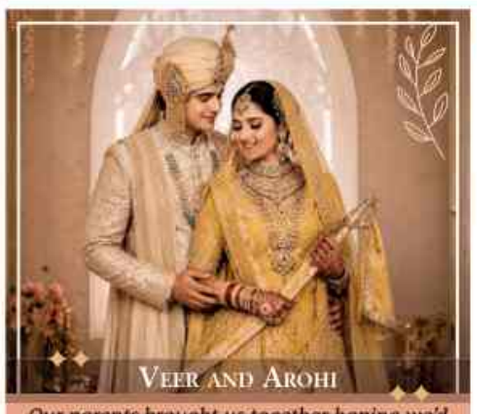

Our parents brought us together hoping we'd connect. What surprised us most wasn't the compatibility, but how easy talking felt from the very first time. That's rare & we knew we had to hold on to it & see where it goes.

MATRIMONIALS
WANTED BRIDES
BY CASTE
AGARWAL-BISA

29/5'10 B.Tech-IIT MS wkg with google 1Cr +well establd B'ness Fmly. Caste No Bar .No dowry Rich Fmly #9826502693 Email: bdmatj@gmail.com

BRAHMIN

29/5'10" B.Tech IIT,M.S.(Eng) GOOGLE wkg,1Cr+ Tetotaller Boy, Father Defenc Oficer.Elite family, Caste no bar, No dowry. 9226324317 rasrm68@gmail.com

SM 30/6'3" Law graduate, Jabalpur M.P. High Profile , Hotelier, Real Estate Business, Contact only vegetarian Hindi Speaking family. # 7999907232.

HANDSOME Srswt Brahmin 31 yrs/6'/ High income, MBA (USA), Settled in India, From High status family, Caste no bar. Call 9115551721, 9464513311

WANTED BRIDE
For Fair, Handsome Brahmin Boy, Born 1991, 5'8", MBA from prestigious Stanford University (USA), BTech (CSE) from NIT (Double Gold Medalist). Rich Affluent Nuclear Business Family of IITians and IIMians from Bhopal, MP.
Mob.: 9399820743
sssk36014@gmail.com

JATAV

H'SOME Dubai-based MS USA Jatav boy 1991/5'7"/$150K Delhi NCR family seeks beautiful well-educated girl. Cast no bar#9650408495

KAYASTHA

37YRS Bhatnagar Manglik MBA boy 5'11" noida based 15 LPA. Consultant in MNC. 9412084272 , mrraj4@gmail.com

KHATRI

49/5.9 TALL divorcee belongs to high status family prefer middle and upper cast and beautiful very fair bride contact 9554222279

NAIDU

NAIDU Boy, 35/180 cms. MD, DNB (Onco), working as Assistant Professor in Govt. Hospital and Consultant in many leading hospitals at Hyderabad. Elite family. Seeks suitable matrimonial proposals from PG or post PG medical doctors. Contact Parents: WhatsApp: 8332853746, 9866053746 e-mail: udvaha23@gmail.com

BY COMMUNITY
RAJPUT

PQM for Tall, H'some Non-Mnglk Rajput boy 30/6 ft/ B.Tech MBA frm IIFT (Delhi), Wrkg MNC(B'lore). Fthr Retd. Civil srvnt. W/A 9355475996

BY PROFESSION
ENGINEERS

Looking for BRIDE
Bangalore-based Software Engineer, 28, 5'7", ambitious and family-oriented, from a cultured Delhi-based family.
Seeks professionally qualified, kind-hearted, and family-oriented bride with modern values.
WhatsApp us at: 9899079825

BY RELIGION
CHRISTIAN

SYRIAN Catholic bridegroom, 1986, 174 cm fair, B.Tech MBA, MNC Bangalore. A fair good-looking qualified bride needed. 99720 05190.

HINDU

HINDU Besta, Kannada, June'84/Pune Born/5'8",Graduate, Never Married, good-looking, Job in RBI Press, Mysore, 20LPA seeks Hindu, Never Married, good-looking bride(34-41), 5'-5'8", Educated, Working, mother tongue Kannada/ Marathi/ Tulu/ Konkani/ others preferred. Caste no bar. Call/WA 7899402978

WANTED Beautiful fair colour Bride, general caste, Graduate Age about 30+ Ready to fly UK/India for handsome 46/5'8" Vaishya Gupta Super Surgeon works UK & Planning Clinic at Pune 7974602176

CASTE No Bar HYD B.Tech boy in MNC, OCT1995 5'8" seeks beautiful educated HYD based alliance whatsapp 9000031115 /9949521299

BENGALI kayastha, 28 yrs, 5'7",phd math usa, musician, required good looking, active, to settle abroad bride w/a 9804987814

MUSLIM

WANTED beautiful tall, religious girl for H'some 27 yrs, 6'ft Sunni Businessman, office in Mumbai & Dubai from reputed family. Ph: 9867503350

EDUCATED Sunni Muslim boy (Sep-1993), MS in Engineering, well-settled in USA, Green Card holder, seeks compatible match (9164400029)

PROFESSIONALLY well-settled Sunni Muslim boy, 28 years, M.Tech Software Developer (CTC 80 LPA), looking for suitable alliance.(080-69144026)

H'SOME boy 32/5'11' PG from UK, of elite Hyd family - seeks prof qual Sunni muslim girl. Call or W/A 9679999635

SIKH

MBA (ISB,Hyd)+BE cln shaven, nvr mrd, handsome 38/6'4", 70 LPA Bangalore based. Seek Sikh/Pb girl, caste no bar Ph 9035408600

GOODLOOKING, slim PQM for G'Sikh boy, IIT/IIM alumnus, born 1989, 5'9", working as Financial Trader in USA. Contact: 9891330097.

GENERAL
CASTE NO BAR

BENGALI Hindu unmarried 29 years, 6 feet,Civil Engineer,Phd working as Research Scientist in Finland.Seeks suitable bride working in Finland.Father retired Armed Forces Doctor. Contact : 9702449683, saumitroy9@gmail.com

FAIR , sweet natured, beautiful educated girl for an Excellent Natured handsome MBA punjabi boy, 29yrs, 5ft 9in. Working in Los Angeles, USA. Call/Email 9910336355 Kusumw@gmail.com

ARORA BOY DIVORCED, Aug'82/5'7", well-settled, MNC Pharma professional, Zurich/Switzerland. Seeking educated, compatible match. WhatsApp with biodata & photo:9815165647

1976 Handsome Telugu AUSTRALIAN Citizen M.TECH (RMIT MELBOURNE) Divorcee with no issues, seeks a Smart, Slim, well-educated girl from a cultured family. Send BPH to WA No. 9900194241.

SOUTH Delhi Kayastha boy, LLM (Ivy League). Lawyer working in Delhi. Nov 91 born (6'2.5") seeking a well Qualified girl. Caste no bar. 9811996787

ESTD:1998 For Elite profiles both India/ abroad, 1st/ 2nd/ Late marriages (personalised services). Contact 9611919477/ 9886884291

ALLIANCE invited for a Marathi Boy 1995 born, 5'9 , Businessman , Only Son / Properterial belonging of 2000 Cr Contact - 7200200946

HINDU, never married. Age 45, 5'7". IIT, Ph.D. Professor in US, Green Card. Non-smoker, Non-drinker, vegetarian, Seeking Never Married, Veg bride below 37 yrs. No caste bar. Contact: 8600315420

REPUTED Hindu business family from Hyd Alliance for son 40 looking for homely girl from Hindu business family&HNI family only 9885008270

BANGALORE settled hindu kerala pillai boy 48/5.6", legally divorced, self employed caste no bar. 9900595898, 8073594062.

B.TECH IIT + ISB (MBA) '84|171 cm Tech Founder/CEO Dubai. Income 10 Crore. Elite Jaipur Jain Family 9829294900

SOUTH Indian Family searching for an alliance for their son , 1998 Born / 6'1/ IAS Officer. Alliance invited - 7200200946

PATEL boy, 33yr/5'7" MS (Electronics), Software Engineer Germany, PR Status, Caste No Bar, Call 919993013290

Nagpur based very well established Agarwal business family seeks alliance for their Son/ 45 yrs/ 5ft 9"/ Div/LLB,MBA/ into family business and also running Law firm. Looking for a compatible match, Caste no bar/status no bar/but without child
9999599564
Or Mail Us At
Vpss999@gmail.com

Seeking professionally qualified tall girl from cultured family for 36/6'3", Baniya boy, M.Tech (USA), working in Top MNC in Bangalore. Both Parents doctors in Lucknow.
Please call/whatsapp 9415026358 9415518399

COSMOPOLITAN

DM doctor (Dec-91/185 cm/ Tamil- Hindi) seeks a virtuous, tall, v.fair, PG Dr/ well edu bride(29-31 yrs) @ Bangalore. Parents: 9342529547/9072118800

SECOND MARRIAGE

PQM4 Smart Hsome 44/6'1", BE Sr. Tech. Arch. MNC Blore 1Cr+PA, I'less Div, edu status Punjabi fmly W'App: 9920160368 newbeginning4nm@gmail.com

RELIGION NO BAR

39/5'9" unmarried Boy Caste no bar Btech-MBA IIM, Wrkg MNC 50 LPA Bn'ess family Accept Divorcee & Widow 9407932961,7587736854

BY LANGUAGE
BENGALI

WANTED Bengali Brahmin Bride. Groom : HT Ahmedabad, Sandilya gotra, only child, 1995 born, ht.6ft, BTech MBA(IIM), working in MNC at Pune, excellent package. Apply with family / bride's details & photo. WhatsApp : 9106685517

QM4I Brhmn, 29+/5'11", B.Tech, Mgr Intl MNC. Fair, handsome, affluent family. Parents: Engr & Cent.Govt Mgr. Seek highly-edu, wrkg bride from family outside WB #8826680512

M.TECH (Canada),'96/5'9", wkg in Canada, bengali, seeks prof qualified girl int for settling abroad 9898328769

PUNJABI

SM4 MBA, 46/6' US Ctzn, wrkg in USA MNC Hdu Pnjbi H'some, phyly fit D'vce, 1 daughter w/ex wife. Seeks Girl below 37 yrs. Simple Marriage. E: lotuslily45@gmail.com

BRIDE WANTED
Suitable match for Punjabi Khatri High Status, Well Established Computer Engg. (MIT), MBA (XLRI, Jamshedpur), very Handsome, very Fair, Clean Shaven, Convent Educated, Non Manglik Boy 35/6'0" having own Real Estates and Power Generation business (High rental income) in Jamshedpur. Looking for Punjabi girl of reputed family. No Dowry will be Accepted.
CONTACT : 6207121650
88jamshedpur@gmail.com

BY NATIONALITY
NRI/ GREEN CARD

BALIJA Naidu 32, 6'1" MS, MBA on H1B in US seeks alliances from tall, fair, beautiful well educated girls in US from respectable south indian families. WA 9309744976 / email vwnaidu@gmail.com

INDIAN groom 35/5'6", PhD, Scientist, Hong Kong, seeks educated, family-oriented bride. India/NRI. WhatsApp: 8950171930.

SM4 NM Garg Boy, Never Married, Nov.'84, 5'-7", BE, MBA (USA), Software IT Prof. , CA-USA, H1B, Seeks US based working Girl- 9099978143

WANTED GROOMS
BY CASTE
BRAHMIN

SM4 Gaur Brhmn girl, B.Des., 29Yr/5'5",Wrkg in BLR,earning H'some sal.pkg. Seeks PQ Veg North Indian Brhmn T'totaler Boy wrkg in Metro City (pref. BLR). Whtsp: 9719577688, 9703830947,9886607922 email: aksharmagzb2022@gmail.com

AFFECTIONATE Educed Brhmn Vg man upto 52yr for 46+ USCtzn 1yr Wdwd in NJ Car Acdnt2005 Div2018 WelStldBlr NoChld UseWlkr C:9945505879/7349264137

PQM for Br. daughter / never married / Nov - 83 born / BE IT - Working as SENIOR SOLUTION ARCHITECT -Bglr. in USA Based MNC / 60 LPA / Ph :+91- 9327325444 / Email : tkn1944@gmail.com

MATCH for Brahmin, March 86/5'1", BE, Divorced, Beautiful, 70 LPA Bangalore (Jaipur Family). Upper Caste No Bar Send BHP 8949222130

KHATRI

H/STATUS Sikh buss. fmly seeks PQM for convent edu b'ful girl nov 93/5'5¼"MBA/ s-emplyd/high income / Canadian PR. 9876001157

SEEKING a well-settled, smart, tall boy for a 5'.5", Dec 94 born, punjabi girl, working in BLR, but ready to relocate. call/ whatsApp 9849640921

KAYASTHA

MBBS, MD Ansth Tata Kay. Bride 22.7.87/ 5'2" Mum, D. dib fel' Cardio & C care MRCP P-1 & II prf MD Dr, IT 9821212409, sinhaassociates27@gmail.com

JATAV

BA LLB LLM GIRL JUNE 95 5.4 FAIR SIMPLE SEEKS CLASS I,ENG ,LAW JUDICIAL SERVCE, MBA BOY. FAMILY HIGHLY EDUCATED WHATSAPP 9911162431

KURMI

KURMI Kshatriya Girl 28/ 5'4" Wheatish Bhopal M.P. Based Working in Dubai (30Lpa+) Engr. (Gold) MBA IIM Ahmedabad # 7415139337

BY COMMUNITY
AGARWAL

PQM for Goyal girl 5 ft / born April 1987/51 kgs MBA, MS working in USA, I-140 approved. Open to relocation in USA /India. Mobile 9823345267

KERALITE

PHD, SCIENCE Research Girl Jul'94 5'4 working UK.Seek Qual boy.Parents working Singapore #+6596660955. vsheba.oes@ gmail.com

RAJPUT

WANTED a groom job/ business man from Rajput/ upper caste for good looking, 31/5'6" B.E, CS, wrkg Rajput girl. # 8770148091, 6268474143

BY PROFESSION
DOCTORS

MATCH for Garhwali Rajput Doctor pursuing MD (Derma), 27 years, height 5'2" from educated, cultured family. Seeking doctor (MD/MS/DNB) from well-educated family. WhatsApp: 9820749630

LOOKING for groom MEDICO Bangalore based Agarwal girl,Jan'97,5'4", Fair, MBBS, MS General Surgery, working in private sector. WA: 9927392058, 9036034670

Bride Groom Wanted for DOCTOR
Hindu Nadar MBBS Doctor pursuing MS (OG) – Final Year 25 Years height 5'5", fair and Good Looking Native Thoothukudi District and settled in T. Nagar, Chennai. VIP Family and Rich background
Looking for MBBS, MD, MS qualified Groom
rjrhouse201@gmail.com
9487657423 / 9514777115

MBA/CA

LOOKING for Punjabi boy age b/w 28-30, preferably working in Hyderabad in IT/govt sector Please call @9581461311

OTHER PROFESSIONALS

1997, 5'6", beautiful, fair, Stanford Master's, Multi-talented / compassionate, Seeks well-qualified groom from Top 15 US schools. (E) uzsh0214@gmail.com

BY RELIGION
HINDU

SM4 Brahmin Girl b'ful 32/5'4, Gazetted Officer Vadodara, Managing mild Parkinsons, leads an active life. Upper Caste no bar. send BHP on Whatsapp 9314014461.

DOCTOR, MS (O&G), DNB, MRCOG (London), FNB Bangalore. DOB 05.11.1990, Rohini star, Rishabh Rashi, No Dosham, Tamil Kshatriya girl. Both parents Doctor in Bhilai. Seeking PG Doctor Mob: 8103350889

HINDU Girl, 05-1997/5'2", B.Tech, Software Engr., MNC, Hyderabad, Punjab origin, Seeks well-settled, prof.qual. Boy mat246k@gmail.com

SM4 28Y 5'4" Fair Punjabi Girl MBA MNC Gurgaon Seek PQ boy 29 to 31Y in Corporate or Com. Pilot from Defence Offrs Family WA 7838706856

MUSLIM

SUNNI Muslim Reputed fmly of Patna seeks edu, family oriented groom (Syed, sheikh, Pathan)for good looking , tall girl 25, MBA (United Kingdom) M- 8294358123

SUNNI Muslim girl from a respectable and affluent family, 2003 born, BE educated, seeking suitable proposal. (080-6914 1325)

GENERAL
CASTE NO BAR

REPUTED Punjabi family, Patna, seeks upper-caste (Hindu) match for daughter, 39, 5'4", LLM (top institute), lawyer, graceful & accomplished. Educated, progressive, well-settled, financially stable groom preferred. No dowry. Contact: 9934423838.

SLIM, Fair, B'ful, Never Married, Punjabi girl, 37, 5'3", born & brought up in Delhi. Working as Strategy Director in MNC in Bangalore. (Rs.60 LPA). Seeks smart, well-settled match based in Bangalore. Contact: 7837483747

SEEKING alliance from upper caste for Bangalore based,MArch,beautiful,1995 /5'6", daughter of Army officer.Mother, sister Doctors.Contact 9885186147

LUCKNOW based Girl 5.2"/1996 working as a Research Scientist U.C.L.A (USA). Call : 9319500861, 9650312918

KAYSTHA June 96 born 5'4" MBA work in MNC Bengaluru Parents Retd. officers LKO Seek Qualified upper-caste boy based in BLR/ HYD/PNQ/BOM WhatsApp: 9369499615 / 9415070723

BEAUTIFUL doctor girl 96/5'2 final yr Pediatrics. Father Retd defence officer seeks suitable Medico/Defence/Services/Professional. WhatsApp 8275224791. e mail 101996pp@gmail.com

DENTIST brahmin girl sep92/5'3 CanadaPR seeks suitable match. boys settled in Canada/ USA preferred. #9810976834

COSMOPOLITAN

FIN Well Stld PQM for Slim B'ful 1984/5'6" Pbi girl BTech & PG Wkg as Mgr MNC Dubai Shrt Mrg Dvrc I'Less Pune: 7717639665

SC/ST

SUITABLE Match for JAISWAR (SC) Beautiful Smart Girl 30/5'9" BBA LLB, Wkg MNC Hyderabad. 35 LPA caste no bar. Mb- 9936899315

SECOND MARRIAGE

MUMBAI based 34 years, Christian/ Punjabi. Divorcee, issueless. Sr. Cabin Crew with Air India, Only Pilots/ Indian Defence Grooms. Ph: 9833342212

BY LANGUAGE
PUNJABI

PQM 4 Bangalore bsd fair B'ful Punjabi girl 32/5'6" Sr. Sft. Eng. Pkg 34 L, Family Lucknow bsd seeks Prof. Qlfd. Well Settled groom: 9415469956, 9307609110

Seeking a suitable match for a well-educated, cultured and family-oriented girl
36 years, 155cm, Punjabi Khatri, currently working at senior position in a leading bank in Chandigarh. She is smart, caring, and values both modern outlook and traditional family values.
We are a respectable and well-settled family based in Ludhiana.
Looking for a professionally qualified, well-settled, and caring groom from a reputed family background.
Caste no bar. Horoscope matching can be considered. Please respond with full details at: Email : skg.businessmail@gmail.com
WA Profile +91 9814138500

TELUGU

TELUGU, YADAV Bride, 28 Y, 5.4 ft, B.Tech. Seeking Well educated Suitable Groom. Contact:8919377540

BY NATIONALITY
NRI/ GREEN CARD

HINDU Punjabi British citizen 35,5'8" fair and good looking working in UK MNC seeks professional UK settled boy. Whatsapp - 9312265430

B.TECH Tamil Mudaliar Girl DOB Dec 94 NRI Wkg MNC UAE, 42LPA,Seeks boy Wkg Abroad, CasteNoBar CT8667248379,

US NYC based hindu girl Green Card processed, edu BTech,MBA, Dec/88, 5'7" seeking NYC settled boy <=40y, E- bhatnagar.hari@gmail.com

SEATTLE /metro area based boy for Microsoft s/w Engr girl Dec91 / 5'5" nonveg. Caste/lower age no bar WA 9845824616

PQM4 Sindhi Girl 49/5'4" Never Married B.E, MBA Sr Director USA M:9820303313, E: Vivah77@gmail.com

PQM/BUSINESS for US Citizen girl, Jatt Sikh, '94 Born, 5'-5", MBBS (Govt, Medical College, Chandigarh) tall, very fair, slim & beautiful. She is Caring & good hearted, persuing higher studies In U.S. We are reputed, well established, Chandigarh based, high networth landlord family from Haryana. Seeking alliance with a gentle natured, well eductd, well qual. prfly clean-shaven well placed mtch frm good family with simmilar socio-economic background in India. First generation U.S. immigrant preferred. Religion / caste no bar.. Send biodata, pics Whattsapp: 8054843897, 9417018670

Satheesan holds crucial discussion with Venugopal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

T K Deepaprasad

V D Satheesan (R) with KC Venugopal at the latter's residence on Saturday

T'puram: Chief minister-designate V D Satheesan on Saturday held crucial discussions with K C Venugopal amid hectic negotiations over the formation of the new cabinet and efforts by the Congress brass to project unity after an intense tussle for the CM post.

The meeting, held at Venugopal's residence, marked the first interaction between the two functionaries after the Congress high command announced Satheesan as the chief minister. Venugopal reached the capital from New Delhi on Friday evening.

Visits Chennithala at Vazhuthacaud residence

Before meeting Venugopal, Satheesan held talks with Congress veteran Ramesh Chennithala at his residence in Vazhuthacaud. Since being named CM, Satheesan has been reaching out to senior functionaries in an apparent attempt to ensure internal cohesion and ease tensions over cabinet formation.

Political observers closely watched the Satheesan-Venugopal meeting, as the two emerged as strong contenders for the CM post during deliberations within Congress Legislature Party and high command. The contest intensified after Venugopal reportedly staked claim based on the support he enjoyed among MLAs, a claim that Satheesan dismissed as inflated and inaccurate before the high command.

Sources said Venugopal came close to securing the top post before the balance shifted in Satheesan's favour following consultations held by Rahul Gandhi with senior party functionaries from the state in New Delhi.

Seeking to downplay speculation of factional differences, Satheesan told reporters after the meeting that there were no major disagreements between him and Venugopal.

Tough bargaining among allies for cabinet berths

T'puram: UDF constituent partners engaged in some tough bargaining as discussions over cabinet berths and key portfolios continued late into Saturday night. The talks are likely to resume on Sunday morning.

Kerala Congress (Joseph) group raised the biggest hurdle before the Congress brass as the party, boasting seven MLAs, demanded two cabinet berths. Joseph faction argued that it deserves two berths because IUML has been allotted five ministerial positions. KC(Joseph) functionaries also say that the party had sacrificed two seats for Congress going into the assembly election.

While it has become almost certain that Mons Joseph will represent the party in the cabinet, the faction is also pressing for revenue portfolio — a demand that the Congress brass is reportedly reluctant to accept.

Similarly, Shibu Baby John of RSP is certain to become the minister, but the party has sought a major portfolio such as power.

Another contentious issue relates to the Congress proposal that Anoop Jacob of Kerala Congress (Jacob) and Mani C Kappan of Kerala Democratic Party should share a single cabinet berth under a rotational arrangement. Sources said both functionaries were unhappy with the suggestion, though efforts are under way to persuade them to accept the compromise.

Although Congress and IUML have broadly agreed on allocating five cabinet berths to the latter, discussions over portfolio distribution remain unresolved.

Meanwhile, CMP's CP John has demanded ports portfolio. However, the Congress brass is understood to have offered cooperation instead, an arrangement that John is reportedly unwilling to accept. TNN

Himachal Pradesh high court dismisses live-in partner's plea seeking custody of married woman

Sanjeev.Verma
@timesofindia.com

Shimla: A man who admits to being in a physical live-in relationship with a married woman cannot invoke habeas corpus to interfere in her matrimonial life, Himachal Pradesh HC said, dismissing the petition for her custody.

"Judicial sanctity cannot be given to an adulterous relationship," a division bench of Chief Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia and Justice Bipin Chander Negi said.

The petitioner had filed a habeas corpus plea to produce his live-in partner in court, claiming he was her "close friend". He also admitted he was in a live-in arrangement with her and they shared a physical relationship despite her being legally married and having a child.

An alleged agreement dated Dec 17 relating to their live-in relationship was placed before the court. The petitioner claimed the woman was under threat from her husband and mother-in-law, on the basis of certain mobile messages allegedly sent by her, and sought court directions for her "release".

Refusing to entertain the plea, HC observed the woman was admittedly residing with her husband and the constitutional court could not be drawn into personal matrimonial disputes through habeas corpus proceedings.

"It is not for this court to intervene in matrimonial issues inter se the detenue (woman) and her husband," the bench observed.

The petitioner relied upon Supreme Court's ruling in Devu G Nair vs State of Kerala and Others decided in March 2024 concerning protection of intimate partners and members of LGBTQ communities in cases of illegal detention.

However, HC distinguished the judgment, noting the SC case did not involve a married woman living with her husband.

Centre defends suspension of Indus Waters Treaty

▸ Continued from page 1

India categorically rejects the present so-called award, just as it has firmly rejected all prior pronouncements of the illegally constituted CoA," he added. India has in the past too rejected such awards by the same court in disputes over hydropower projects, saying that such decisions are misleading as India never recognised this court.

Recalling that India has never recognised the establishment of this so-called CoA, the official said that any proceeding, award, or decision issued by it is null and void.

India never accepted the World Bank's decision to simultaneously activate both the Neutral Expert mechanism, which India follows, and the CoA on the same set of issues.

Following the Pahalgam terrorist attack last year, India had put in abeyance the 1960 IWT saying blood and water cannot flow together.

DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
INDIRA GANDHI DELHI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN
NETAJI SUBHAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
(www.cmacadmissions.com)

Admission Announcement for MBA Program (2026-28)
Common Management Admission Committee 2026

Online applications are invited for the admission in two-year full-time **MBA Program** (2026-28 Batch) of the following Departments of Universities established by Govt. of NCT of Delhi

- Delhi School of Management (DTU)
- Department of Management (IGDTUW) (Only Female Candidates)
- Department of Management Studies (NSUT)

Eligibility Criteria: Candidates who have completed Bachelor's degree with 60% marks in aggregate from a recognized University/institution and have a valid CAT-2025 or MAT-2025/26 score are eligible to apply. Please refer to the brochure of respective Universities regarding relaxation in eligibility criteria applicable to different categories/sub-categories. Those who are appearing in the final semester examination may also apply, provided that they submit the proof of eligibility by a specific date to be declared by the CMAC.

Important Dates

Opening Date of registration	17th April, 2026 (Friday)
Last date of filling online application form is extended till 22nd May, 2026 (Friday)	

Visit http://www.cmacadmissions.com for a detailed information brochure and online application form. For University specific information, please visit www.dtu.ac.in, www.igdtuw.ac.in, www.nsut.ac.in

Sd/-
Chairperson
CMAC (PG)- 2026

For any other query, please contact: Chairperson, CMAC(PG)- 2026,
Delhi Technological University (Formerly Delhi College of Engineering), Bawana Road, Delhi -110042
Email- mbaadmissions@dtu.ac.in Contact : 011-27296203

I I I T Bhubaneswar
Imagine. Innovate. Inspire.
(A University established by Government of Odisha)

Admission Announcement
B.Tech. Programme

Application are invited for admission to B.Tech. Programme under **Odisha Category** in the following disciplines.

- Computer Science & Engineering
- Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering
- Electrical & Electronics Engineering
- Information Technology

Admission shall be strictly restricted to JEE (Main) 2026 Rank holders IIIT Bhubaneswar reserves 50% seats for Odisha category candidates and the counseling for admission shall be done by the Institute directly. The admission for the rest of the seats shall be done by JOSAA2026.

For Admission Bulletin and more details visit our website : **https://www.iiit-bh.ac.in**

DIRECTOR

MINISTRY OF POWER
NATIONAL POWER TRAINING INSTITUTE
Ministry of Power, Government of India

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Who can apply: Full-time Diploma holders in Electrical, Mechanical, Civil, C&I or E&E with minimum 60% aggregate marks.
Age Limit: Maximum 35 years as on 3rd July, 2026.
Selection: Based on Merit (60% Diploma marks + 20% GD/PI performance)

Last date to apply: 3rd July, 2026 | 10% Discount | Scan to Apply

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Intake 2026 - 27 | 100% Placement Record | 8218228896, 8700270994 | Follow us: @nptiofficial

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client is desirous of entering into Joint Development Agreement with regard to all that piece and parcel of lands in (1) Survey No.121 measuring about 1 Acre, (2) Survey No.122 measuring about 10 Acres and (3) Survey No.123 measuring about 4 Acres, in all measuring about 15 Acres all situated at Sathanuru Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore which are more fully set out in the Item Nos.1 to 3 of the Schedule below and hereinafter collectively referred to as 'Schedule Property' from its present owners, the details are mentioned against the Schedule Property.

Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner whatsoever or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the Owners or objecting to such transaction with our client, should write to the undersigned within fifteen days (15 days) from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period our clients shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of lands situated at Sathanuru Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore in all measuring about 15 Acres comprised of survey numbers which are morefully detailed in the table below:

Item Nos	Owner's Name	Sy Nos	Extent		Boundaries			
			Acre	Gunta	East	West	North	South
1	(1) Mr. Srungeri Seshagiri S/o Srungeri Satyanarayanaiah (2) Srungeri Manohari W/o Srungeri Seshagiri.	121	1	00	Sy. No. 67 (Sy No. 124 as per survey record)	Sy.Nos.122 (Old Sy.No. 67) & Sy NO. 67 (as per survey record Sy No. 120	Sy.No.122 (Old Sy. No.67)	Bagalur Main Road
2	(3) Srungeri Sreenath S/o Srungeri Satyanarayanaiah (4) Rukmini Sreenath W/o Srungeri Sreenath.	122	10	00	Sy. No. 123, 121 (Old Sy.No.67), Sy.No.67 (as per survey record Sy No. 124)	Sy.Nos.67 (as per survey record Sy No.120) & 123 (Old Sy. No.67)	Sy.No.123 (Old Sy.No.67) & Sy.No.67	Sy.Nos.121, 123, (old Sy. No.67) and Sy No. 67
3	(5) Srungeri Rajaram S/o Srungeri Satyanarayanaiah (6) Srungeri Krishna Mohan S/o Srungeri Satyanarayanaiah	123	4	00	Sy.Nos.67 (as per survey records Sy. No.124) & 122(Old Sy. No.67),	Sy.No.122 (old Sy. No.67)	Sy.No.122 (old Sy. No.67)	Sy.Nos.122 (Old Sy. No.67)
	Total		15	00				

Date:17.05.2026
Bangalore

(Geetha. K.N), Advocate,
CMS INDUSLAW, No.101, 1st Floor,
"Embassy Classic" No.11, Vittal Mallya Road,
Bengaluru – 560 001 PH; 080-40726600.

dholera A NEW ERA | Dholera Industrial City Development Limited

Tenders are invited from reputed and experienced agencies for the following. The salient features, eligibility criteria and prescribed formats for submission of tender are available at the procurement portal link: **dicdltender.nprocure.com**, as mentioned in below table, as amended from time to time including time extension, if any.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sr. No.	Description	Bid Due Date (Online)
1	Supply of Fire Fighting Vehicles in the Activation Area in Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR), Dholera	05.06.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs
Physical Bid Submission: Within 07 days from the Online Bid Due Date		

The Tender submission shall be accompanied with the requisite Tender Fee, EMD, Forms, supporting documents, etc. as required in the Tender Document. **The Tender submission must be addressed to : Managing Director - DICDL.**

6th Floor, Block No. 1 and 2, Udyog Bhavan, Sector-11, Gandhinagar-382011, Gujarat, India. **Phone : +91 - 079-29750500 CIN : U45209GJ2016SGC085839**
Email : tender@dicdl.in

योजना तथा वास्तुकला विद्यालय
SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE
संसद के अधिनियम के तहत "राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान"
An "Institution of National Importance" under an Act of Parliament
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)/(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
4-स्लाक-बी, इंद्रप्रस्थ एस्टेट, नई दिल्ली/4, Block-B, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi -02
ईमेल/Email id: tnctestt@spa.ac.in, फोन/Tel: +919810220553, वेबसाइट/website: www.spa.ac.in

CONTRACT FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

ONLINE Applications are invited through Samarth Portal from Indian Nationals for engagement as **Assistant Professors (on contract basis)** in the various Departments of the School on consolidated emoluments.

Appointment shall be valid for eleven months.

Further details are available on our website: **www.spa.ac.in** under careers tab.

Last Date of submission of application is 5th June, 2026.

REGISTRAR

Office of Superintendent of Police
Deposit Fraud Investigation Division, CID, Bengaluru.

NOTIFICATION

It is hereby notified to the public that the company **M/s Jargold Retail Pvt. Ltd.,** has collected money from public customers through a digital application for investing in precious metals like gold and silver for the public, and is doing business in an unregulated manner without obtaining permission or registration from any regulatory authority. It is alleged that Jargold company has been collecting deposits from the general public and has dishonestly induced investors, with an intention to cheat and default in repayment. In this regard, a case has been registered at Koramangala Police Station in Crime No.25/2026 and the matter is pesently under investigation by CID, Bengaluru.

Therefore, the depositors who have invested in the company M/s Jargold and have been cheated are requested to present the documents related to the investment to the undersigned investigation officer.

Since the movable and immovable properties in the names of Jargold Retail Pvt. Ltd. and co-companies and accused **Misbah Ashraf, Sandesh Nahar and Nishchay Babu Arakalgudu** have to be identified and action has to be taken under the KPIDFE Act-2004, the public having information about movable and immovable assets of the above accused are requested to provide information. The names of the informants will be kept confidential.

Sd/-Police Inspector, DFI Division, CID, Bengaluru, Tel. No.: 080-22094567

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India)
Project Implementation Unit, Dharwad

PUBLIC NOTICE ON REVISED USER FEE (TOLL) RATES AT NALAVADI TOLL PLAZA APPLICABLE FROM 17.05.2026 to 31.03.2027

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to approval of revised user fee rates vide letter dated 12.05.2026 of NHAI, the User fee rates for use of section from Km. 128.850 to Km. 272.571 (Hubli to Hospet section) of NH-63 (New NH-67) are going to be revised as under w.e.f. 00.00 hrs. of 17.05.2026 at Nalavadi Toll Plaza (Chainage: 161.200 Km., Near Nalavadi Village, Dharwad District) in the State of Karnataka. **Amount in Rs.**

Category of Vehicles	Fee for Single Journey	Fee for return Journey within a day twenty four hours from the time of payment	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single Journeys in a month (one month from the date of payment)	Fee for commercial vehicle registered within the district of plaza
Car/Jeep/Van or Light Motor Vehicle	135	205	4520	70
Light Commercial Vehicle/Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	220	330	7305	110
Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	460	690	15300	230
3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	500	750	16690	250
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (4 to 6 axles)	720	1080	23995	360
Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	875	1315	29210	440
The rate for monthly pass applicable for local non-commercial vehicle residing within a distance of 20 km from the toll plaza shall be **Rs.350.00**				

2. The above section was developed as per provisions of Contract Agreement dated 29.08.2016 on EPC mode and Authority Engineer vide letter dated 10.03.2022 certified the completed length of 134.620 Km, further Authority Engineer vide letter dated 05.05.2026 certified the completed length of 8.606 Km i.e., total length of 143.226 Km, for putting on commercial operation. The above rates are applicable for a completed length 71.860 Km, which comprising of following:

Type of section	Length (Km)	Equivalent Length (km) for which user fee is to be levied	Configuration
Straight Section	45.249	45.249	4
Bypass (costing > Rs.10.0 Cr.)	26.073	26.073	4
Structures (length > 60m)	0.538	5.380	4 & more

3. The following concessions are available at above toll plaza:
i) Return Journey within 24 Hours from time of payment for all categories of vehicles (discount 25%)
ii) 50 single journey in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles (discount-33%)
iii) Pass at Rs. 350.00 per calendar month for non-commercial vehicle residing within 20 Km. from Toll Plaza.
iv) The Annual Pass for the FY 2026-27 is Rs.3075/-for one year validity or 200 toll plaza crossings.
v) Commercial Vehicle (excluding those plying under national permit) registered in the District of Toll Plaza (discount 50%)
4. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the Amendment to Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950(E)
5. The vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay 10 times the applicable fee rate and remove the excess load to make use of highway.
6. The Capital Cost of the Project is Rs. 3610.80 Crore.
7. For viewing the fee notification dated 2008 & its Amendments published in the Gazette, letter of NHAI dated 12.05.2026 containing approval of rates, etc, the website http://nhaltis.org may be visited.
8. For any enquiry and or giving complaints/suggestions, please contact (Sh. Bhuvanesh Kumar DGM (Tech) & Project Director, NHAI, PIU, Vivekanand Nagar, 2nd Cross Vidyagiri, Near Excellent NEET Academy Dharwad Ph:0836-2461244).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India)
Project Implementation Unit, Dharwad

PUBLIC NOTICE ON REVISED USER FEE (TOLL) RATES AT HALLIGUDI TOLL PLAZA APPLICABLE FROM 17.05.2026 to 31.03.2027

The public are hereby informed that pursuant to approval of revised user fee rates vide letter dated 12.05.2026 of NHAI, the User fee rates for use of section from Km. 128.850 to Km. 272.571 (Hubli to Hospet section) of NH-63 (New NH-67) are going to be revised as under w.e.f. 00.00 hrs. of 17.05.2026 at Halligudi Toll Plaza (Chainage: 220.160 Km., Near Halligudi Village, Gadag District) in the State of Karnataka. **Amount in Rs.**

Category of Vehicles	Fee for Single Journey	Fee for return Journey within a day twenty four hours from the time of payment	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single Journeys in a month (one month from the date of payment)	Fee for commercial vehicle registered within the district of plaza
Car/Jeep/Van or Light Motor Vehicle	120	185	4060	60
Light Commercial Vehicle/Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	195	295	6560	100
Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	410	620	13745	205
3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	450	675	14995	225
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (4 to 6 axles)	645	970	21560	325
Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	785	1180	26245	395
The rate for monthly pass applicable for local non-commercial vehicle residing within a distance of 20 km from the toll plaza shall be **Rs.350.00**				

2. The above section was developed as per provisions of Contract Agreement dated 29.08.2016 on EPC mode and Authority Engineer vide letter dated 10.03.2022 certified the completed length of 134.620 Km, further Authority Engineer vide letter dated 05.05.2026 certified the completed length of 8.606 Km i.e., total length of 143.226 Km, for putting on commercial operation. The above rates are applicable for a completed length 71.366 Km, which comprising of following:

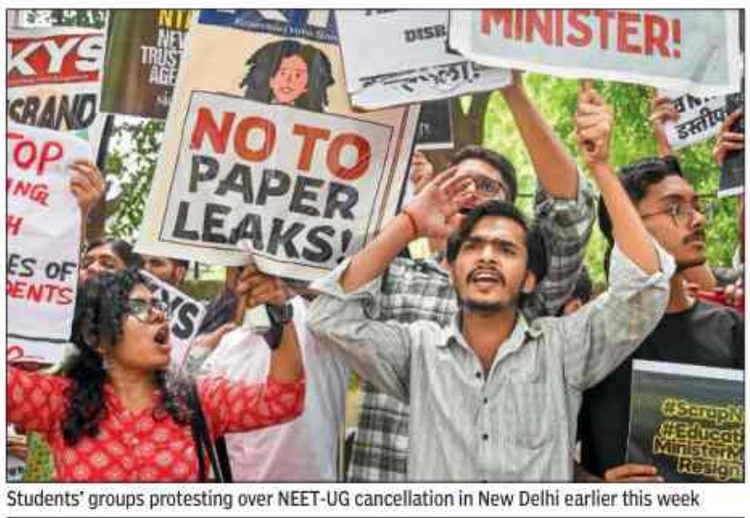
Type of section	Length (Km)	Equivalent Length (km) for which user fee is to be levied	Configuration
Straight Section	54.983	54.983	4
Bypass (costing > Rs.10.0 Cr.)	16.257	16.257	4
Structures (length > 60m)	0.126	1.260	4 & more

3. The following concessions are available at above toll plaza:
i) Return Journey within 24 Hours from time of payment for all categories of vehicles (discount 25%)
ii) 50 single journey in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles (discount-33%)
iii) Pass at Rs. 350.00 per calendar month for non-commercial vehicle residing within 20 Km. from Toll Plaza.
iv) The Annual Pass for the FY 2026-27 is Rs.3075/-for one year validity or 200 toll plaza crossings.
v) Commercial Vehicle (excluding those plying under national permit) registered in the District of Toll Plaza (discount 50%)
4. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the Amendment to Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950(E)
5. The vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay 10 times the applicable fee rate and remove the excess load to make use of highway.
6. The Capital Cost of the Project is Rs. 3610.80 Crore.
7. For viewing the fee notification dated 2008 & its Amendments published in the Gazette, letter of NHAI dated 12.05.2026 containing approval of rates, etc, the website http://nhaltis.org may be visited.
8. For any enquiry and or giving complaints/suggestions, please contact (Sh. Bhuvanesh Kumar DGM (Tech) & Project Director, NHAI, PIU, Vivekanand Nagar, 2nd Cross Vidyagiri, Near Excellent NEET Academy Dharwad Ph:0836-2461244).

Computer-based NEET-UG welcome, but experts talk of more reforms

Hemali.Chhapia@timesofindia.com

The paper leak scandal has thrown up questions around the format, fairness, and future design of NEET-UG. The Union govt has announced that the test will move to a computer-based format from next year. Experts told **TOI** that reform is both necessary and inevitable, but far from straightforward...



Students' groups protesting over NEET-UG cancellation in New Delhi earlier this week

Can NEET-UG go fully computer-based?

Prof Suman Chakraborty, director, IIT-Kharagpur | A computer-based test (CBT) can reduce the physical movement of question papers, enable encrypted question delivery, randomised sequencing, audit trails, real-time monitoring, and faster forensic analysis. However, CBT by itself does not necessarily imply "online exam equals safe exam", because of the advent of digital fraud.... Therefore, a paradigm transition is needed: encrypted item banks, last-mile question activation, multiple equivalent question sets, AI-enabled anomaly detection, biometric identity verification (albeit with minimal wastage of time and no apparent harassment to any candidate), jammer-enabled centres, strict device-free zones, and deep-tech surveillance against miniature electronic gadgets and generative AI-assisted cheating.

Prof V Ramgopal Rao, former director, IIT Delhi | Computer-based format should not be as one national online sitting for 23 lakh students. Scale itself creates risk. A better option is a two-stage model. The first stage can be a CBT over multiple sessions, with proper normalisation. The second stage can be for a selected pool, under much tighter institutional control. Academic institutions must conduct the second-stage exam, like the IITs do for JEE Advanced.

Prof Ashok Misra, former director, IIT Bombay | When we shifted JEE to a computer-based test, I asked C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing) to make a computer program that could normalise scores. Initially, JEE was 50% online and 50% pen-and-paper. The next year, it was 70:30. But, now, it's completely computer-based. You have to have the faith and will to do it.

Prof G D Yadav, former VC, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai | A computer-based test (CBT) format significantly reduces risks associated with paper printing, transportation, storage, and leakage, while enabling randomised question delivery and stronger security protocols. However, such a transition must be carefully phased because a large number of students, especially from rural and economically weaker backgrounds, may not yet have sufficient familiarity with CBTs.

Is an on-demand model like GRE or TOEFL viable for NEET-UG?

Prof Rao | I would not support an on-demand GRE- or TOEFL-type model for NEET. Those are score-based tests with repeated attempts. NEET is rank-based, extremely high-stakes, and tied to limited seats. Too much flexibility will create more problems than it solves.

Prof Yadav | A completely on-demand model like GRE or TOEFL or SAT may not be immediately suitable for NEET-UG because of the enormous scale of the examination, the highly competitive nature of medical admissions, and the need for strict standardisation across the country.... However, a practical middle path could be to conduct NEET multiple times a year, perhaps 3-4 times with normalised scoring.

Prof Chakraborty | For NEET-UG, a fully on-demand model is not immediately advisable. NEET decides access to a limited number of medical seats in a highly competitive national merit system — so the perspective is different. If students take the test on different dates, even with normalisation, public confidence may be strained. A better Indian model would be controlled multi-session CBT that will need some pilots and trials before roll-out. The exam may be conducted in tightly supervised windows with statistically equivalent papers, strong normalisation, and full transparency. This reduces crowding and leakage risks while preserving fairness.

Should NEET-UG be split into separate exams for MBBS, dental and AYUSH streams?

Dr Praveen Shingare, former head, Directorate of Medical Education and Research | When NEET was introduced, it was limited to MBBS and dental admissions. Today, states are using NEET scores for a wide range of courses — physiotherapy, occupational therapy, nursing. The number of candidates has increased significantly, and so has the scale of administration. What was once handled by hundreds now involves thousands, making the system more complex, and, in many ways, more vulnerable.

Prof Rao | I would not split NEET at the first stage into separate exams for MBBS, dental and AYUSH. The school science foundation is common. A common core test should remain. Additional stream-specific filters can come later.

Prof Yadav | I believe there is merit in considering separate or partially differentiated examinations for MBBS, dental, and AYUSH streams.... A carefully designed modular structure could reduce unnecessary competition. However, it is always a prestige issue... students who do not get admission in MBBS would go to the next best course whether they have an aptitude or not.

Prof Chakraborty | Fragmenting NEET into separate exams may appear administratively attractive, but it risks creating multiple coaching markets and rackets, multiple stress cycles, and multiple points of vulnerability. At the undergraduate level, the foundational scientific base for all of these is common: physics, chemistry, biology, reasoning, and aptitude for health sciences. The better reform is not fragmentation, but smart differentiation within a common platform. NEET can remain a common national eligibility framework, while counselling, preference architecture, discipline-specific aptitude components, or later-stage bridge modules may be used for MBBS, dental, AYUSH and allied streams.

Is there a clear, error-free solution?

Prof S S Mantha, former AICTE chairman | Technology, especially AI, has a great solution to offer. The core argument is that the real problem is not format — pen-and-paper, CBT, or on-demand — but credibility. Unless question paper leaks and system vulnerabilities are addressed, any format will remain exposed. The proposed solution uses... parametric design and AI. Every time you run this algorithm you'll get a different paper. Once generated, papers are encrypted... decrypted just minutes before the exam. No one would know which paper goes where.

Prof V N Rajasekhar Pillai, former UGC chairman | The NEET debate is not only about examination technology; it reflects a deeper question as to what kind of educational culture India wishes to build. Technology should remain an instrument of fairness, transparency, and accessibility; it should not be a symbol of contemporariness. The question is not simply: 'Can we conduct examinations digitally?', but rather, 'Can we ensure that digital entrance examinations remain educationally just for every student?' I still believe that a totally centralised entrance examination system is not the right choice for a country as vast and diverse as India.

Bio teacher holds govt-aided post, slated to retire in 7 mths

▶Continued from P 1

She made students note down important questions and also mark them in their textbooks, and these have tallied with the actual question papers," a CBI spokesperson claimed.

A Delhi court, meanwhile, remanded Prahlad Vithalrao Kulkarni and co-accused Manisha Waghmare to 10 days' CBI custody, holding that their custodial interrogation was necessary to "unearth the larger conspiracy".

Special CBI Judge Ajay Gupta observed that they were "not only part of this syndicate but also the main accused persons", and that "the leak of the question paper was initiated by these two accused persons by adopting a particular modus operandi in this regard".

A CBI team on Saturday searched Mandhare's residence in Ganga Osian Park society in Katraj, Pune city. Beauty parlour owner Waghmare, arrested earlier in the case, lives in the same society. "Both women knew each other," a member of the housing society said. Mandhare's husband is a dentist. The principal of the college where Mandhare teaches, Nivedita Ekbote, said Mandhare is "a permanent teacher".

Manisha Mandhare

"She holds a government-aided post and is slated to retire in seven months. She taught biology to students of Standards XI and XII," Ekbote said, adding that Mandhare has been associated with NTA for the past six-seven years. "NTA interacted directly with her because of the confidentiality clause, as per the guidelines of the court and govt authorities. We never came to know when she went to the NTA and when she returned. As she is a senior teacher, she must have been involved in paper-setting exercises at different places, including the state board," she said. The CBI is now zeroing in on NTA "insiders" who allegedly facilitated the leaks and were involved in the setting of questions, agency sources said. The arrest comes a day after the CBI caught P V Kulkarni, a retired chemistry professor from Pune, for allegedly leaking the chemistry questions. Kulkarni was associated with the NTA as part of the panel that set the question paper. TOI was the first to report, on Friday, that the CBI suspected those who had set the questions.

The CBI claimed verification had confirmed that the majority of the compromised questions dictated to her students tallied precisely with the official NEET-UG 2026 question paper administered nationwide on May 3, 2026. The arrests of the two teachers by the CBI are in line with the agency's initial findings that most of the leaked questions were from the chemistry and biology papers.

NTA gets 2 new joint secys, 2 joint directors

New Delhi: Govt on Saturday appointed two joint secretaries and two joint directors to National Testing Agency (NTA), which is under fire over the NEET-UG paper leak.

According to orders issued by the personnel department, Anuja Bapat, an Indian Statistical Service officer of the 1998 batch, and Ruchita Vij, an Indian Revenue Service officer of the 2004 batch, were appointed joint secretaries. It said two vacant posts at the deputy secretary/director level were upgraded to joint secretary-level for two years for the purpose.

Akash Jain, an Indian Revenue Service officer, and Aditya Rajendra Bhojgadhiya, an Indian Audit and Accounts Service officer, have been named joint directors in NTA, it said in a separate order.

On Friday, education minister Dharmendra Pradhan had said more reforms were needed in NTA. TNN

Internal assessment for Class X third language

▶Continued from P 1

The circular stated, "No Board Examination shall be conducted for R3 (third language) at the Class X level. All assessments for R3 shall be entirely school-based and internal." The performance, however, "will be duly reflected in the CBSE certificate".

CBSE said the revised scheme followed a "transitional approach" because the academic session had already started in April 2026. The current Class X batch in 2026-27 will continue under the earlier language structure carried forward from Class IX.

Ashok Pandey, a former principal and policy analyst, said the emphasis on multilingualism was consistent with the NEP 2020 vision, but cautioned that introducing the third-language mandate in Class IX at this stage could create anxiety. "Board years demand stability and confidence. Such reforms are best implemented gradually and cohort-wise, giving schools, teachers and learners adequate preparation time," he said.

Pandey noted that many CBSE schools had so far followed a language structure combining English, Hindi or a regional language, along with foreign languages such as French, German or Spanish. "Educational changes succeed through thoughtful transition management and not only on the strength of a good intent," he said.

The circular provides exemptions for children with special needs, CBSE schools abroad, and foreign students returning to India on a case-by-case basis. A school principal said schools now face "staffing, timetable redesign, textbook sourcing" challenges during the transition.

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ARYA Vysya 45 yrs,173cms, Software professional, Visakhapatnam. Seeking matches from educated Family. Call: 6366448338

ARYA Vysya, 27,173cms, USA (Family in Mumbai), Software Professional & MS . Seeking Well-settled match. Call: 6366530297

BOYAR, 30, 175cms, Bangalore - Businessman & Bachelors. Father Retired. Seeking compatible match. Call: 6366530297

BRAHMIN, 28 yrs, 165 cms, MBA, Businessman, living in Trichy. Seeking bride from same community. Call: 6366530308

BRAHMIN, 28Yrs, 168 cms, B.Tech, Software professional in Hyderabad. Seeks suitable bride. Call: 6366448338

BRAHMIN-IYENGAR, 48, 170cms, Bangalore - MD & Masters. Seeking well-educated Brahmin match. Call: 6366530297

CHETTIYAR, 27 yrs, 188 cms, BE, Businessman, living in Coimbatore. Seeking bride from business family. Call: 6366530308

CHETTIYAR, 27, 178cms, MS, Software Professional, USA. Seeking suitable match from any Chettiyars. Call: 6366530308

CHETTIYAR, 29,175 cms, MD, Doctor, Chennai. Seeking a suitable bride from an equivalent community. Call: 6366530307.

CHRISTIAN, 26, 160 cms, Medical Professional, UK. Seeking a well-educated Christian bride. Call: 6366530307.

CNB, 32Yrs, 171 cms, Software professional in USA, Doctor's family. Seeks Educated match. Call: 6366448338

DEVENDRA Kula Vellalar, 42,173cms, Bangalore - Software Professional & B.Tech. Seeking compatible match. Call: 6366530297

EZHAVA, 25, 170 cms, Pursuing MD, Chennai -based, Business family. Seeking matches within India. Call: 6366530310

EZHAVA, 26, 85 cms, Business with B.Tech, Palakkad-based, Business family. Seeking matches worldwide. Call: 6366530310

EZHAVA, 29, 170 cms, Engineering professional, Australia-based. Seeking matches from Australia. Call: 6366530310

GOUNDER, 30, 163cms, Bangalore - Masters in Engineering, Father Employed. Seeking compatible match. Call: 6366530297

GOWDA, 30, 183cms from Bangalore - Entrepreneur & MBA (IT Director). Seeking well-settled match. Call: 6366530297

KAMMA Naidu, 27,168cms from Bangalore - Entrepreneur & BE Civil. Seeking well-settled match. Call: 6366530297

KAMMA, 30Yrs, 180cms, software professional from USA, from educated family. Father into business. Call: 6366448338

KAMMA, Unmarried, 31Yrs, 180 cms, Medical professional in UK, Real estate family. Seeks educated bride. Call: 6366448338

KAPU, 31Yrs,173 cms, Businessman from Hyderabad. Seeks alliance from educated family. Call: 6366448338

KONGU Vella Gounder, 30, 180cms, Family Business, Chennai. Seeking suitable match of same community. Call: 6366530308

KSHATRIYA 27yrs, 168 Cms, Architect, Hyderabad, Business family. Looking for educated family background. Call: 6366448338

KSHATRIYA Raju, 28, 178cms, US-Masters in Management, Mother-Businesswoman. Seeking any upper community. Call: 6366530297

LINGAYAT, 39, 170cms from Bangalore - Entrepreneur & BE-CS. Seeking well-settled match. Call: 6366530297

MUDALIYAR, 26, 180 cms, B.Arch, Businessman, Chennai. Seeking a suitable bride from an same community. Call:6366530307.

MUDALIYAR, 30 yrs, 178 cms, BSc, Businessman living in Madurai. Seeking bride from business family. Call: 6366530308

MUDALIYAR, 30 yrs, 178 cms, BSc, businessman, living in Madurai. Seeking bride from business family. Call: 6366530308

MUSLIM Sunni, 28yrs, 183 cms, MD/Ms, Medical Professional, Kallakurichi. Looking for a suitable bride. Call: 6366530308

NADAR, 31, 178cms, M.A from London, Businessman-Chennai . Seeking match from any Equivalent community. Call: 6366530308

NAIR, 27, 180 cms, Management professional with MBA, Bangalore-based. Seeking matches worldwide. Call: 6366530310

NAIR, 27, 185 cms, Business professional with Master's in Medicine, Palakkad-based. Seeking Kerala matches. Call: 6366530310

NAIR, 29, 168 cms, Engineering professional with M.Tech, Trivandrum-based. Seeking matches from India. Call: 6366530310

NAIR, 30, 170 cms, Engineering professional with MBA, Bangalore-based. Seeking Bangalore matches. Call: 6366530310

NAIR, 34,173 cms, Medical professional pursuing Master's in Medicine, Kannur. Seeking Kerala matches. Call: 6366530310

REDDY, 29Yrs, 183 cms, working in Canada. Seeks working professional from any location willing to relocate. Call: 6366448338

REDDY, 45, 175cms, Bangalore - Businessman & Masters. Look for a like-minded match. Call : 6366530307

REDDY, Divorced, 38Yrs, 183 cms, businessman in Hyderabad. Seeks well educated bride from any caste. Call: 6366448338

SC Mala, Unmarried, 32Yrs, 180 cms, Senior Manager in USA. Seeks educated bride from any caste. Call: 6366448338

SC, Unmarried, 30Yrs, 180 cms, Entrepreneur from Hyderabad, Business family. Seeks educated bride. Call: 6366448338

SENGUNTHA Mudaliyar, 26, 180cms, UK Engineer & MS (UK). Father Entrepreneur. Seeking Doctor match. Call: 6366530297

SINDHI, 28, 178cms, USA-Masters in Management. Father-Entrepreneur. Seeking match from same community. Call: 6366530297

UDAYAR, 29, 175 cms, MS, Businessman, Tanjore. Seeking a suitable bride from similar community. Call: 6366530307.

VANIYA Chettiyar, 38 yrs, 180 cms, MHM,Businessman, Pondicherry. Seeking bride from equivalent family. Call: 6366530308

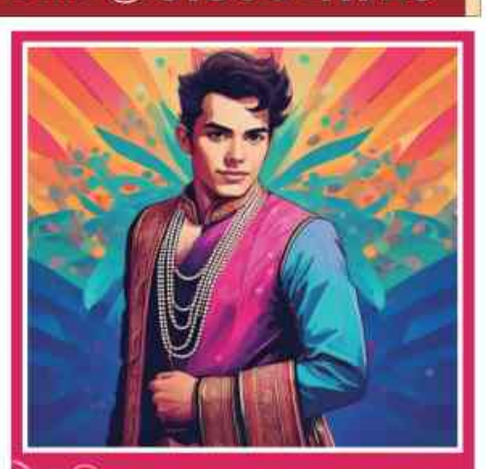
VANNIYA kula Kshatriyar, 30, 173cms, MS from UK, Business in Chennai. Seeking match in same community. Call: 6366530308

VANNIYA kula Kshatriyar, 34 yrs, 173 cms, BE,living in Dubai. Seeks suitable bride from same community. Call: 6366530308

VELAMA, 40Yrs, 173 cms, Software professional from Hyderabad. Seeks alliance from educated family. Call: 6366448338

VISHWA Brahmin, Unmarried, 32Yrs,185 cms, Entrepreneur in Bangalore. Seeks educated bride. Call: 6366448338

YADAV, 30Yrs, 175cms, Software professional in USA. Seeking alliance from educated family background. Call: 6366448338



WANTED GROOMS

BALIJA Naidu, 28, 158cms, Bangalore - Doctor, Masters in Medicine. Seeking well-settled match. Call: 6366530296

BALIJA, 29, 160cms from Bangalore - Architect & Bachelors in Architecture. Seeking well-settled match. Call: 6366530296

BRAHMIN - Iyer, 24,168 Cms, Software Professional, Mumbai. Looking for groom from same community. Call:6366530307

BRAHMIN - Iyer, 28, 160 Cms, M.Tech, PGD Medical, Chennai. Looking for groom from same community. Call: 6366530307

YADAV, Divorced, 33Yrs, 165 cms, Chief Nutritionist in Hyderabad. Seeks educated groom. Call: 6366448338

MUSLIM - Lebbai, 32, 155cms, Pursuing Masters, Chennai. Seeking alliance from any same community. Call:6366530296

YADAV Unmarried, 27Yrs,170 cms, celebrity from Hyderabad. Seeks match from settled family. Call: 6366448338

MUNNURU Kapu, 29Yrs, 165 cms, MS software professional in USA. Seeks educated groom. Call: 6366448338

NAIR, 26, 155 cms, Senior Associate, Master's, Ernakulam. Seeking suitable matches. Call: 6366530311

VOKKALIGA, 29, 175cms from Tirupathi - PhD Student (Veterinary Medicine). Seeking alliance. Call: 6366530296

BRAHMIN- Iyengar, 35, 160cms from London - Research Professional & Doctorate.Seeking alliance. Call: 6366530296

BRAHMIN Iyer (Divorced), 34, 175cms from USA-Businesswoman & Masters. Seeking same community from USA.Call:6366530296

BRAHMIN Niyogi, 27, 160cms from Bangalore - Doctor & Pursuing Masters. Seeking alliance. Call: 6366530296

BRAHMIN- Smartha, 32, 160cms from Mangalore - Doctor & Bachelors in Medicine. Seeking Brahmin match. Call: 6366530296

BRAHMIN- Vaidiki, 29, 160cms, Singapore - Product Designer & Masters, Caste no bar. Seeking alliance. Call: 6366530296

BRAHMIN, 28Yrs, 163 cms, Doctor from Hyderabad, professional family. Seeks alliance from settled family. Call: 6366448338

BRAHMIN, 32 yrs, 165 cms, MBA, Businesswoman, Living in Bangalore. Seeking groom from same community. Call:6366530307

BRAHMIN, 36 yrs, 170 cms, BE-IT, businesswoman,Chennai. Seeking groom from business family in metro.Call:6366530307

CHETTIYAR, 32, 75 cms, MS, Consultant, Chennai. Seeking groom from an equivalent community. Call:6366530308.

CSI Nadar, 25, 163 Cms, BE, Lives in Thoothukudi. Looking for suitable groom from Business Family. Call:6366530307

DHEEVARA, 23, 160 cms, Master's, Mumbai-based. Business family. Seeking matches outside Kerala. Call: 6366530311

EZHAVA, 26 yrs, 165 cms, B.Arch, businesswoman, Chennai. Seeking groom from same caste from metro. Call:6366530307

EZHAVA, 27, 170 cms, Architect, Master's, Dubai-based. Seeking matches from India/UAE/USA/UK. Call: 6366530311

EZHAVA, 30, 160 cms, Medical professional pursuing MS, Kollam-based. Seeking Kerala matches. Call: 6366530311

GAVARA Naidu, 25, Doctor, Pondicherry. Seeking a well-educated groom from Naidu community. Call: 6366530308.

GOUD, 26Yrs,163 cms, working in UK, business family settled in Hyderabad. Seeks same caste match. Call: 6366448338

GOUNDER, 26 yrs, 170 cms, Businesswoman, Lives in Coimbatore. Looking for a like-minded match. Call : 6366530307

KAMMA Naidu, 26, 170 cms, MBA, CMA, Chennai. Seeking a well-educated groom from Naidu community. Call: 6366530308.

KAMMA, 23, 165cms, Software Professional & Masters in Engineering. Seeking match from same community. Call: 6366530296

KAMMA, divorced, 31Yrs, 170 cms, MD doctor from affluent family, seeks educated high net worth groom. Call: 6366448338

KAPU, 31Yrs, 163 cms, Medical professional from affluent business family. Seeks educated same caste groom. Call:6366448338

KONGU vellalar Gounder, 30 yrs, 165 cms, Medical Professional, works in Chennai. Seeking alliance. Call: 6366530307

LATIN Catholic, 27, 160 cms, Medical professional pursuing Master's, Trivandrum. Kerala matches. Call: 6366530311

MUDALIYAR, 27, 163cms from Bangalore - Medical Professional & Bachelors in Medicine. Seeking alliance. Call: 6366530296

MUDALIYAR, 30, 183 cms, MS, Business, Chennai. Seeking a suitable groom from an equivalent community. Call: 6366530308.

MUSLIM Sunni, 25, 163 cms, pursuing Master's in Medicine, Chennai-based. Seeking India/UK/UAE matches. Call: 6366530311

NAIR (Divorced), 37, 173cms from Bangalore - Professional & Masters in Management. Seeking settled match. Call: 6366530296

NAIR, 24, 165 Cms, B.Sc, Fashion Designer, Lives in Chennai.Looking for groom from same community. Call: 6366530307

NAIR, 26, 163 cms, Banking professional, Master's, Coimbatore, Business family. Seeking matches. Call: 6366530311

NAIR, 27, 175 cms, Doctor pursuing Master's, Karnataka. Business family. Seeking suitable matches. Call: 6366530311

PADMASHALI, 30Yrs, 168 cms, Hyderabad, pursuing M.D. from decent family, seeks suitable match. Call:6366448338

REDDY, 26Yrs,163 cms, Software professional in USA from business family. Seeks US working groom. Call: 6366448338

REDDY, 29Yrs, 160 cms, divorced, working in UK, from affluent family, seeks UK/USA settled groom. Call: 6366448338

REDDY, unmarried, 30Yrs, 158 cms, software professional in USA, business family. Seeks educated groom. Call: 6366448338

REDDY, unmarried, 31Yrs, 173 cms, Management professional in Bangalore. Seeks educated AP groom. Call: 6366448338

ROMAN Catholic, 25, 165 cms, MBA, Australia, Management professional. Seeking India/Australia matches. Call: 6366530311

VADDERA, 25Yrs, 165 cms, Medical professional in Hyderabad, business family. Seeks same caste match. Call: 6366448338

VELAMA, unmarried, 33Yrs, 163 cms, Management professional in Hyderabad. Seeks educated groom. Call: 6366448338

VOKKALIGA, 29, 170cms from Bangalore - Businessman, Masters in Management. Seeking Vokkaliga match. Call: 6366530296

YADAV, 33, 165cm, Architect , Lives in Chennai. Seeking alliance from any equivalent community. Call: 6366530296

"THESE PROFILES ARE FROM ELITE MATRIMONY"

India & Netherlands boost ties; Tata Electronics, ASML ink deal

Semiconductor Unit In Guj To Get Dutch Help

Sachin.Parashar
@timesofindia.com

PM with Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima in Amsterdam

New Delhi: India and the Netherlands upgraded their relationship to a strategic partnership as PM Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with his counterpart Rob Jetten in The Hague. The leaders also witnessed the signing of an agreement between Tata Electronics and ASML to support the semiconductor fabrication plant in Gujarat's Dholera, with Modi calling it an important step in India's journey for developing a semiconductor ecosystem in the country.

The Dutch foreign minister, Tom Berendsen, told **TOI** in an interview that the new strategic partnership will be focused on trade and investment, security, innovation, and people-to-people ties.

The two PMs welcomed the decision of Tata Electronics and ASML to partner together for India's first front-end semiconductor Fab in Gujarat, according to the MEA.

The Netherlands has one of the world's most advanced semiconductor ecosystems, with Dutch multinational ASML being the leading supplier for high-precision lithography equipment, a critical requirement in manufacturing of semiconductor chips. "Semiconductor chips will be manufactured in India using ASML's equipment. The optimism towards India is clearly visible in all of your words today. We guarantee that this optimism will translate into an outcome," said Modi in a roundtable with Dutch CEOs.

The PM said that the year 2026 marks the beginning of a new golden era in India-Europe relations. "This year, we signed the historic India-EU Free Trade Agreement. This agreement, between the world's two largest democratic and responsible powers, will become a strong foundation for shared prosperity," he said.

Ahead of his meeting with the Dutch PM, Modi also said that the two countries were going to take several decisions during his visit, including elevating the trusted relationship to a strategic partnership, launching an ambitious joint roadmap in green hydrogen ensuring tech ties are future-ready.

As per MEA, Modi's visit focused on building upon the momentum of high-level engagements and cooperation spanning diverse sectors, including defence, security, innovation, green hydrogen, semiconductors and a strategic partnership on water. The Netherlands is one of India's largest trade destinations in Europe, with bilateral trade worth $ 27.8 billion (2024-25), and India's fourth largest investor with cumulative FDI of $55.6 billion.

In Netherlands, PM Modi pitches India as land of opportunities

▶ Continued from page 1

However, Modi's speech was largely focused on India's numerous achievements since he took office 12 years back, the diaspora and ties between India and the Netherlands. Modi spoke of the huge turnout in recent polls, and its boundless aspirations, reflected in its aim to host Olympics and become a global manufacturing hub.

"From that day to this day, the trust reposed in me by crores of Indians neither allows me to stop nor to tire," he said. India is now a land of opportunities and is both technology-driven and humanity-driven. India is becoming as modern as it is ancient, he said, urging the diaspora to reconnect with the country and participate in its journey towards becoming a developed nation.

India's 14-year-long effort ends in success, Netherlands hands over 'Chola Plates'

Ambika.Pandit@timesofindia.com

The plates were brought to the Netherlands in 1712 by Florentius Camper, who was in India as part of a Christian mission in the period when Nagapattinam was under Dutch control

New Delhi: India has finally succeeded in retrieving the 'Chola Plates', considered among the most significant surviving records of the dynasty, with the Netherlands formally returning the artefacts at a ceremony attended by both Prime Ministers on Saturday, marking another success for the Modi govt in recovering stolen antiquities from foreign jurisdictions.

"A joyous moment for every Indian! Chola Copper Plates dating back to the 11th Century will be repatriated to India from the Netherlands. Took part in the ceremony for the same in the presence of PM Rob Jetten," PM Modi said in a post on X.

"The Chola Copper Plates are a set of 21 large plates and 3 small plates and largely contain texts in Tamil, one of the most beautiful languages of the world. They relate to the great Rajendra Chola I formalising an oral commitment made by his father, King Rajaraja I. They also showcase the greatness of the Cholas. We in India are immensely proud of the Cholas, their culture and their maritime prowess," the PM added. He also thanked govt of the Netherlands and Leiden University, where the copper plates had been kept since the mid-19th century.

The restitution marks the culmination of a 14-year effort to bring them back. Of the 668 antiquities repatriated to India from various countries so far, 655 have returned since Modi govt took office in 2014.

The return of the Anaimangalam Copper Plates, known in the Netherlands as the Leiden Plates, adds to that list. The records are regarded among the most important artefacts of Tamil heritage held outside India. The plates document agreements relating to the rights enjoyed by a Buddhist shrine and monasteries in Nagapattinam over the revenue of villages.

Dating to the reign of Rajaraja Chola I (985–1014 CE), regarded as one of India's greatest rulers, one object comprises 21 copper plates weighing around 30 kg. The plates are divided into Sanskrit and Tamil sections. The second object comprises three copper plates with Tamil inscriptions. Both are bound together by bronze rings bearing the seal of the Chola dynasty.

According to sources, India's efforts gained decisive momentum on October 30, 2023, when India's ambassador and permanent delegate to Unesco formally sought inclusion of the Chola Dynasty Copper Plates in the agenda of the 24th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP).

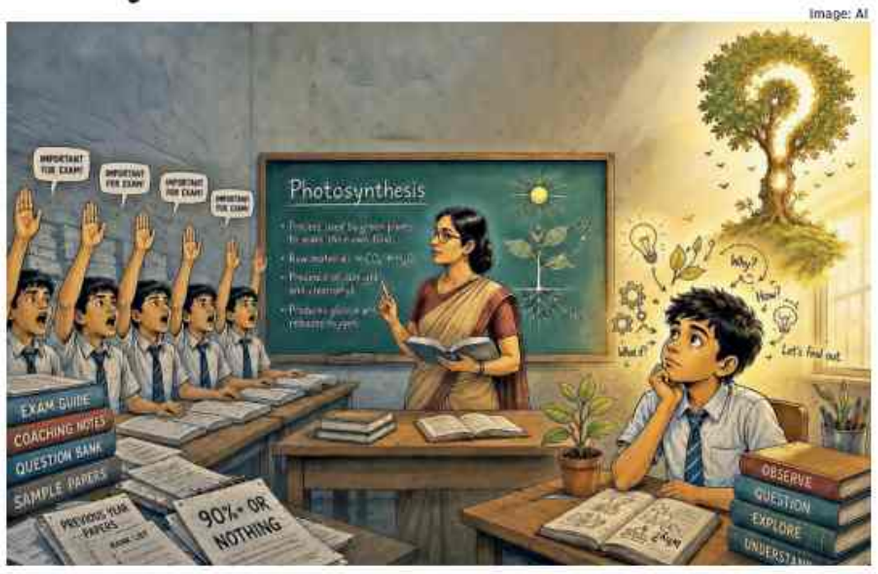
The Unesco committee subsequently recognised India's claim as the country of origin and encouraged the Netherlands to engage in bilateral dialogue with India, culminating in the agreement to return the plates during PM Modi's visit.

The plates were brought to the Netherlands in 1712 by Florentius Camper, who was in India as part of a Christian mission when Nagapattinam was under Dutch control. They were later donated to Leiden University in 1862. Officials said the precise circumstances under which Camper obtained the plates remain unclear.

Marks over mind: The crisis of curiosity in Indian schools

Meghna.Dhulia
@timesofindia.com

Image: AI



In a classroom in Delhi, the teacher writes a familiar question on the board. Define photosynthesis. Within seconds, hands go up. Students recite textbook definitions, almost word for word. But when the teacher asks a different question, like "why do plants need sunlight even when they already have water and carbon dioxide?", there's not much chatter then.

The contrast captures a deeper problem in the Indian education system. Students are often trained to remember answers, but not always encouraged to ask questions. Across schools, marks remain the ultimate currency. Board examinations, entrance tests and coaching culture reward speed, accuracy and memorisation. Students quickly learn that asking difficult "why" questions can slow them down in the race for marks. As a result, curiosity is often pushed aside by the pressure to complete syllabi and secure ranks.

"We can see this reality in many contemporary situations. For instance, despite students scoring exceptionally high marks in board examinations and competitive tests, employers and higher education institutions often express concern about gaps in problem-solving ability, communication skills, creativity, and practical application of knowledge. Similarly, the rapid expansion of coaching-centre culture has normalised speed, repetition, and test-oriented preparation over conceptual understanding and intellectual curiosity," said professor Dinesh Prasad Saklani, director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

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Education experts say recent policy reforms, such as the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023, are attempting to address this imbalance by shifting the focus from rote memorisation to critical thinking and conceptual understanding.

Saklani added, "NEP 2020 has rightly emphasised experiential learning and competency-based education. Performance tracking and assessment based on holistic progress cards (HPC) — a comprehensive assessment tool that reflects a learner's progress across cognitive, socio-emotional and practical skills — when implemented, promotes critical thinking, collaboration and multidisciplinary understanding. However, meaningful transformation can happen only when classroom practices, pedagogy, textbooks, assessments and institutional expectations also change accordingly."

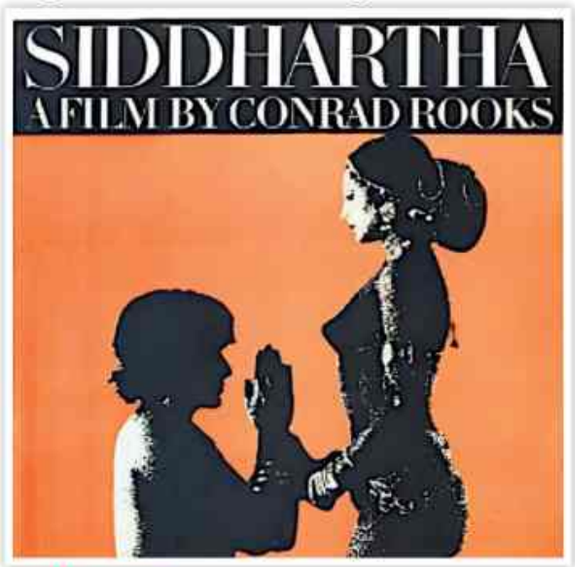
The conversation around critical thinking has become even more urgent in a rapidly changing world shaped by technology and artificial intelligence. "In the age of intelligence, it is increasingly being realised that the ability to frame the right questions and apply '*tarka*', or reasoning, to solve problems will define future learning needs," said Ashok Pandey, former principal, Ahlcon International School, Delhi. "The policy rightly encourages us to root pedagogy in civilisational wisdom as a lived experience, rather than treating it merely as symbolism," he added.

As the demands of the modern world are changing, employers increasingly seek problem-solving, creativity and analytical thinking rather than memorising of information. The new education policy also gives importance to critical thinking and conceptual understanding. Some schools have begun introducing competency-based questions and project learning to move beyond rote-heavy methods. But, as experts put it, changing an education culture built around marks will not be easy, more so because parents often measure success through scores, while competitive exams continue to reward intense preparation patterns.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Beyond Desire: Understanding Tantra, Yog & Sexual Energy

ST TEAM posits that every force in life, including longing, can bind or liberate. Unconscious yearning fuels endless craving, while awareness turns it inward



Classic Adaptation: Shashi Kapoor as Siddhartha and Simi Garewal as Kamala in the movie based on novel by Hermann Hesse

In the Indian spiritual tradition, both tantra and yog are profound and subtle paths. Their aim is not merely external conduct, but the elevation of human consciousness to higher levels. In this context, ideas such as *yoni* worship, tantric union, and the 'transformation of sexual energy' often arise, yet they are frequently misunderstood. Their true meaning is not indulgence, but discipline, balance, and Self-realisation.

In tantra, sexual energy is not something to be suppressed, but a force to be understood and transformed. It is the same energy that underlies creation, the fundamental impulse of life itself. When this energy operates unconsciously, a person becomes trapped in desire and indulgence. But when lived with awareness, it can become a doorway to meditation and awakening. Thus, both tantra and yog emphasise that sexual energy should not be used merely for pleasure, but for the growth of consciousness.

Yoni worship is often interpreted in a literal or physical sense, whereas in tantra it is deeply symbolic. The *yoni* represents the source of creation—the Divine Feminine, Shakti. It is an expression of reverence for the sacred energy from which all existence arises. Tantra sees the union of Shiv and Shakti as the foundation of creation. To revere the *yoni* is to *not* objectify women.

In tantric practice, the relationship between practitioner, *sadhak* and partner, *sadhika*, is not based on ordinary attraction or sensory pleasure. It is a disciplined, conscious process that requires harmony among body, mind, and vital energy. The purpose of such a connection is not merely enjoyment, but balancing of energies and expansion of awareness. When one develops the quality of witnessing within, one is no longer a slave to desire but gains the capacity to understand and transcend it. Human sexual energy is immensely powerful. Yog's aim is not to repress it, but to elevate it. Through meditation, breath control, and self-discipline, this same energy can be transformed into creativity, love, and inner peace. When it is spent only in sensory gratification, it often leads to fatigue and dissatisfaction. But when it rises upward, it becomes a source of joy, compassion, and awareness.

In Indian philosophy, the concept of *Rinanubandha* refers to subtle bonds formed through karm. According to tantric understanding, deep relationships are not limited to the present lifetime, but may be part of a larger karmic continuum. Sexual union can intensify these bonds, which is why tantra treats it with great seriousness. Casual or unconscious relationships can create inner conflict and restlessness, while conscious connections can become a means of inner growth.

For this reason, both tantra and yog emphasise the importance of commitment and stability in relationships. This is not merely a social rule, but an energetic principle. Multiple, changing relationships can create mental instability and drain one's energy. In contrast, a deep and committed connection with one partner fosters trust, stability, and inner harmony. Such grounding becomes a supportive foundation for spiritual practice.

Similarly, the guidance to avoid external relationships is not about imposing morality, but about preserving the integrity of one's inner journey. When a person becomes entangled in multiple attachments, the mind becomes restless and energy fragmented. A stable and dedicated relationship, on the other hand, supports depth, clarity, and inward movement.

Ultimately, in tantra, union is not merely a physical act but a meditative state. The essence lies in awareness, patience, and inner balance. When breath, mind, and energy move in harmony, the act itself becomes a form of meditation. The aim is not fleeting pleasure but allowing this energy to flow through the entire being. Tantra teaches that every force in life—even sexual energy—can become a path to higher realisation when approached with awareness. When indulgence is transformed into mindfulness, it becomes yog, and as yog deepens, one begins to experience the divine dimension within. ■

AI transforming industries amid global volatility: TCS chairman

Times News Network

Bengaluru: TCS chairman **N Chandrasekaran** warned of rising macroeconomic uncertainty, saying geopolitical tensions and disruptions to trade and supply chains are reshaping the business environment, even as artificial intelligence emerges as a transformative force across industries.

In a letter to shareholders published in TCS' annual report for FY26, Chandrasekaran said that by early March, the onset of the West Asia crisis had intensified concerns around stagflation — a combination of slowing economic output and rising inflation.

"We are in the midst of intensifying geopolitical tensions, shifts in trade and supply chains, and uneven economic growth. Across markets, corporates are prioritising resilience, productivity and trust-based decisions," he wrote. Against this backdrop, Chandrasekaran said, AI is emerging as a foundational technology that is increasingly central to enterprise operations. "AI is now becoming the infrastructure of intelligence. It will influence how enterprises invest, organise supply chains, manage risk and serve stakeholders," he said.

According to him, GenAI and agentic AI are entering a new phase of growth and will move beyond being a technology layer to becoming the operating foundation for enterprises. AI advancements are driving industry-wide shifts towards automation, he said.

TCS said it has built a comprehensive AI strategy to provide full-stack AI solutions across industries. During FY26, the company expanded its 'Human+AI' operating model and scaled its industry-specific agent marketplace. The company generated annualised revenue of $2.3 billion from AI services and $11.5 billion from new-age services.

25001/150/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA
Email ID- serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
E-Mail/ E-despatch

NOTICE
FOR PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY-IV)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH GePNIC "e"-Procurement
Bid identification No. Online Tender/NCB-01/RWC SBD/2026-2027

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads & Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana **(PMGSY-IV)** in the districts of **Koraput for 23 (Twenty-three)** number of packages with estimated cost totalling to Rs. 32.83 Cr (Approximate) including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with **State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways.** The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement. Dtd. **16.05.2026**

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission : The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in.** The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda // Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division, Koraput / Jeypore / Sunabeda on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement : **05.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.**

For further details and corrigendum (if any) please log on to **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
RW Circle, Sunabeda
OIPR - 25001/25182/1/26-27/0018

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता, नगर निगम, बरेली
अल्पकालीन पुनः ई-निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना

पत्रांक: 52/मु0अभि0/नि0वि0/2026-27 दिनांक: 16.05.2026

नगर निगम, बरेली द्वारा नगर निगम, बरेली के कर्मचारियों हेतु रामपुर गार्डन परिसर, बरेली (उ0प्र0) में 2 बी0एच0के एवं 3 बी0एच0के आवासीय भवनों का डिजाइन, इंजीनियरिंग, सामग्री की आपूर्ति, निर्माण, परीक्षण, कमीशनिंग एवं हैंडओवर कार्य EPC (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) (टर्नकी) आधार पर कराये जाने हेतु योग्य, अनुभवी एवं पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों / फर्मों से टू-बिड पद्धति (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) के माध्यम से निम्न प्रकार से ई-निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि में यदि अवकाश होगा तो निविदायें अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेंगी।

अवस्थापना निधि के अन्तर्गत प्रथम ई-निविदा आमंत्रित हेतु (क्रमांक सं0. 1)	
ई-निविदा डाउनलोड प्रारम्भ की तिथि/समय	18.05.2026 (11:00 AM)
ई-निविदा अपलोड की प्रारम्भ तिथि/समय	18.05.2026 (10:00 PM)
ई-निविदा अपलोड की अन्तिम तिथि/समय	25.05.2026 (05:00 PM)
ई-निविदा खोली जाने की तिथि/समय	26.05.2026 (12:00 PM)
फाईनेशियल ई-निविदा खोली जाने हेतु	After Technical Evaluation

कार्य का विवरण, नियम व शर्तें नगर निगम बरेली के वेबसाईट www.nagarnigambareilly.com पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पोर्टल http://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिये उक्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।

मुख्य अभियन्ता
नगर निगम, बरेली।

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, 2nd floor, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara 2nd block, Bengaluru-560011

No:EE/TE & M Cell/BSCC/TEND/06/2026-27 Date:16-05-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only) The Executive Engineer, TE&MC, Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC), on behalf of the Commissioner, invites online tenders (Technical and Financial) for appointing Agency for Supply of Resource persons on outsource basis with Graduate Civil Engineers / Diploma Civil Engineers for Bengaluru South City Corporation.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1	Supply of Resource persons on outsource basis with Graduate Civil Engineers/Diploma Civil Engineers for Bengaluru South City Corporation. **Amount put to Tender (Excluding GST): ₹. 215.32 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹. 3,25,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Availability of Tender Document in KPPP Portal in **18-05-2026** onwards (2) Date and Time of Pre Bid meeting will be held on **22-05-2026** at **3:00** pm (3) Last date & time for queries on **22-05-2026** at **4:00** pm. (4) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders is **30-05-2026** at **4:00** pm. (5) Opening Technical bid on **01-06-2026** after **4:30** pm. (6) Opening Financial bid (if possible) on **02-06-2026** at **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Zone-1 & 2),
Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, BSCC

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF STATE TAX UPPER NATHANPUR, RING ROAD NEAR PULIA NO-6, DEHRADUN

VACANCY NOTICE

1. Applications are invited to fill the vacancy for Technical Member (State) of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) in the State Bench to be located at Dehradun.
2. The details of the vacancy is below as:

Post	Bench	No. of Post
Technical Member (State)	State Bench (Dehradun)	1

3. Interested candidates shall apply online on ***https://gstn.org.in/gstat-state-application/#/home*** in the prescribed form along with necessary documents.
4. The start date for submitting Application is **15th May, 2026** and the last date for the same is **15th June, 2026 till 5:00 PM.**
5. Detailed Advertisement and prescribed application form can be downloaded from the website of State Tax Department of Uttarakhand **(https://gst.uk.gov.in)**

Commissioner State Tax, Uttarakhand

Bi-RIDE
BENGALURU INTEGRATED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE LIMITED
BENGALURU SUBURBAN TRANSPORT PROJECT (BSTP)

Website: www.kride.in Email ID: gmprocurement@kride.in

e-TENDER NOTICE

1) Tender Notice No.: Bi-RIDE/AKPT/DEPOT/BW/2026
CPP Tender ID: 2026_KRIDE_277012_1
Construction of Boundary wall around the Periphery at Akkupete Depot of BSTP Project.
Last date for submission of above bid is **08.06.2026 IST 15:00 Hrs**

2) Tender Notice No.: Bi-RIDE/BSTP/C2/PACKAGE-1/2026
CPP Tender ID: 2026_KRIDE_277197_1
Construction of Elevated Viaduct (including Ramps) of length 7.795 km and RoR including Double Decker Viaduct (Rail cum Road Flyover), Double Decker Station at Mathikere, Entry / Exit structure, Ramp for Road Flyover, Y-loop ramp, BSTP viaduct ramp at Bennigenahalli, Hebbal, Shettyhalli, FOB's, Multi Model Integration works, part work upto substructure for Corridor-1 at Yeshwanthpur and other related infrastructural works of Elevated section in between Bennigenahalli to Shettyhalli of Corridor-2 of Bengaluru Suburban Transport Project (BSTP).
Last date for submission of above bid is **29.06.2026 IST 15:00 Hrs.**

3) Tender Notice No.: Bi-RIDE/BSTP/C4/PACKAGE-2/2026
CPP Tender ID: 2026_KRIDE_277246_1
Design and Construction of Formation in Embankments/Cuttings/Blanketing, MIBs, ROBs, RUBs, ERS/Retaining Wall, Drains, Boundary Wall, Fencing Works in At-Grade Section of Length 12.632 Km and Other Related Infrastructural Works from Heelalige to Bellandur including Validation of Design & Stability check wherever applicable for works executed by previous contractor (Excluding Station Buildings) of Corridor-4 of Bengaluru Suburban Transport Project (BSTP).
Last date for submission of above bid is **29.06.2026 IST 15:00 Hrs.**

4) Tender Notice No.: Bi-RIDE/BSTP/C4/PACKAGE-1/2026
CPP Tender ID: 2026_KRIDE_277241_1
Design and Construction of Formation in Embankments/Cuttings, Blanketing, MIBs, RUB's, MJBs, ERS/Retaining Wall, Drains, Boundary Wall, Fencing Works In At-Grade Section of Length 6.259 Km, Elevated viaduct of length 3.681 km and other related infrastructural works from Bennigenahalli to Jakkur including Validation of Design & Stability check wherever applicable for works executed by previous contractor (Excluding 5 stations and Channasandra RCC box) of Corridor-4 of Bengaluru Suburban Transport Project (BSTP).
Last date for submission of above bid is **29.06.2026 IST 15:30 Hrs.**

5) Tender Notice No.: BiRIDE/BSTP/C4LC/PACKAGE2/2026
CPP Tender ID: 766910: 2026_KRIDE_277283_1
Construction of 2 nos of Road over bridge (ROB) along with construction of service road and drainages in Lieu of Level crossings (LC) along the Corridor-4 Heelalige to Rajanukunte.
Last date for submission of above bid is **30.06.2026 IST 16:00 Hrs.**

6) Tender Notice No.: BiRIDE/BSTP/C4LC/PACKAGE1/2026
CPP Tender ID: 2026_KRIDE_277277_1
Construction of 2 nos. Road over bridge (ROB) and 1nos Road Under bridge (RUB) along with construction of service road and drainages in Lieu of Level crossings (LC) along the Corridor-4 Heelalige to Rajanukunte.
Last date for submission of above bid is **30.06.2026 IST 15:00 Hrs.**

For details visit **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**

DIPR/CP/YC/682/2026-27 **Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER /Procurement**

KridePrm Kride Bsrp kride_bsrp KRIDE,BSRP

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.02, VC Division, Maddur-571428. Mandya Dist Ph:08231-200282

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO-01/2026-27
Dated : 23.03.2026

This office's Short term tender Notification No.01/2026-27, Dated: 13.03.2026 for the 6 No. of Works (Minimum Estimated Cost Rs.43.00 lakhs & Max. Estunated Cost Rs.96.20 lakhs) as per QCBS, tender is invited from eligible Bidder/Firm from KPWD. Last date of submission of tenders through on-line : As per e-Portal, Date of opening of tender As per e-portal.
For additional Information log on to http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and contact on official Land-line number 08231-200282 during office hours

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Ltd, No.02, VC Division, Maddur.

ವಾಪ್ರಸಂ/ಒಸಿಸಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/130/2026–27

Government of Karnataka
Panchayath Raj Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer, Hassan Division Hassan.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO -08/2026-27
Dated : 12.05.2026

The tender are invited by the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Hassan on be-half of the Governor of Karnataka through KPPP portal as per standard Bid document KW-4 for the following works are INDENTNO:(1) RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT25516/CALL-2 which are sanctioned under the head of account of 2025-26 TH CM Special Infra-structure Development Program. The work details are available in the www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal. THE IMPORTANT DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications 18.05.2026 Upto 4.00pm Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders 20.05.2026 Upto 4.00pm Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid 21.05.2026 4.05pm Onwards Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid After approval of Technical bid

sd/- Executitive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Hassan.

ವಾಪ್ರಸಂ/ಒಸಿಸಿ/ಹಾಸನ/133/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, सा.नि.वि. वृत सवाई माधोपुर

क्रमांक :-लेखा / 2026-27/ डी-265 दिनांक :- 12.5.2026

निविदा सूचना संख्या : 02 /2026-27

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर जिला सवाई माधोपुर में विभिन्न सडक एवं भवन निर्माण कार्य के लिए मय नियमानुसार मरम्मत एवं संधारण की अवधि लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान एवं राज्य सरकार के अन्य विभागों में पंजीकृत ''एए'' ''ए'' श्रेणी तथा केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों /केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग / रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्यों हेतु ई-टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में 5 निर्माण कार्य हेतु जिनकी कुल राशि **रूपये 978.32 लाख** है, प्राप्त की जावेगी। निविदा से सम्बंधित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यवार UBN संख्या निम्नानुसार है।

NIB No. :- PWD2627A0496
UBN No. : 1- PWD2627WSOB02296 2- PWD2627WSOB02299
3- PWD2627WSOB02302 4- PWD2627WSOB02303
5- PWD2627WSOB02305

Sd/-
हरिसिंह मीना
अधीक्षण अभियंता
सा.नि.वि.वृत सवाई माधोपुर

DIPR/C/8591/2026

FOOD SAFETY AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
Office of the Principal Govt. College of Pharmacy, No. 2. P Kalingarao Road, Bangalore-560027. Phone no. 080-22222681

No.: FFSDA/2025-26/SE0028/Call-2 **Date: 16.05.2026**

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION-2nd Call
(Through KPP Portal only) (Two Cover System)

Tenders are invited by the Member Secretary, Tender Inviting Authority, Govt. College of Pharmacy, Bangalore-560027.
Short Term Tenders are invited by the Member Secretary, Tender Inviting Authority, Govt. College of Pharmacy, Bengaluru-560027 for AMC for Software Maintenance at Board of Examining Authority (D.Pharm), 3rd Floor, # 2 P. Kalinga Rao Road, Subbaiah Circle, Bengaluru-560027.
Tender documents downloadable from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **16.05.2026 to 26.05.2026, 17:30 Hrs**. Queries deadline: **21.05.2026, 17:30 Hrs**. Technical bid opens: **01.06.2026, 11:30 AM;** Financial bid opens on or after: **04.06.2026**.
If the tender opening day falls on a public Holiday, then the tenders will be opened on next working day. Further details can be obtained from the **Office of the Principal, No. 2, P. Kalingaroa Road, Bangalore-560027.**

Sd/-Member Secretary, Tender Inviting Authority, Govt. College of Pharmacy, Bangalore-560027

DIPR/CP/JA/700/2026-27

SANJEEVINI-Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society
Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department
Office of the Mission Director, Sanjeevini-KSRLPS
4, 2nd Floor, MYSUGAR Building, J.C. Road, Near Town Hall
Bengaluru-560002 email: nrlmkarnataka@gmail.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Subject: Inviting Applications under Deen Dayal Upadhya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana 2.0 (DDU-GKY 2.0) project in the State of Karnataka

Sanjeevini - Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS), under the Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department, Government of Karnataka is implementing Deen Dayal Upadhya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY). Sanjeevini – KSRLPS invites proposals from the Agencies who are registered under Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and are having valid Permanent Registration Number (PRN) for the implementation of Deen Dayal Upadhaya Grameena Kaushalya Yojana 2.0 (both Regular and Captive Employment) program in the State of Karnataka. The agencies having expertise in skill ecosystem and willingness to impart high quality training and provide placement opportunities are encouraged to submit their proposals. For detailed information and Bank details for application fee you may visit the portal **https://ksrlps.karnataka.gov.in.**

The last date for submitting the proposal along with application fee will be on or before **16.06.2026.** For more information and program guidelines you may visit the MoRD portal **kaushal.rural.gov.in.**

For any queries, you may write to ddugkysrlmkarnataka@gmail.com and nrlmkarnataka@gmail.com

Sd/- Mission Director National Livelihood Mission Karnataka

DIPR/CP/712/CCL/2026-27

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No.KIADB/CE-1/E-Auction-01/367/2026-27 **Date: 15.05.2026**

E-AUCTION FOR ALLOTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL PLOTS

This is to inform that Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) intends to allot industrial plots through e-auction. The details are as under:

Sl. No.	Industrial Area	Plot No.	Extent (in Sqm)	Extent (in Acre-Gunta)	EMD (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	Hassan Growth Center	233 (Corner Plot)	2150.72	0Acre-21.26Gunta	5.00
2	Hassan Growth Center	373P (Intermediate Plot	1894.11	0Acre-18.72Gunta	5.00

The complete details of the E-Auction can be downloaded from the e-portal of the Government of Karnataka at the below address: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Schedule of Events For e-Auction is as below:

1) Bidder Registration Starts Date : **18.05.2026. 2)**Last Date for Submission of bid : **06.06.2026 on or before 5.00 PM. 3)** Live Bidding **: 09.06.2026 Commences at 10.30 Hrs. & Concludes at 15.00 Hrs.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer-1, KIADB

DIPR/CP/695/NR/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ., ಘ.ಎ.ದಂ.ಕಾ., ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 3, ಬೀಳಗಿ,
ದೂ.: 08425-275228, ಇಮೇಲ್: eeknnlglbcdn.3bilagi@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ./ಘ.ಎ.ದಂ.ಕಾ./ಬೀಳಗಿ/ಎಂ.ಎಲ್.ಐ.ಎಸ್.-ಟೆಂಡರ್/2026-27/181 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 12-05-2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮೆ: ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ., ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ., ಘ.ಎ.ದಂ.ಕಾ. ವಿಭಾಗ, 03 ಬೀಳಗಿರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಟರ್ನ್‌ಕೀ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ರೂಲ್ 28 ರನ್ವಯ ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ವಿಧಾನವನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸಿ ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ತಮ್ಮ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ವಿಧಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು : **"Survey, Investigation, Preparation of Design & Drawings, Installation, Testing and commissioning of Lift Irrigation Scheme consisting Intake Canal, Jackwell Cum Pump House, Pumping Machinery, Rising Main, Bleeders and Manifolds, Pipe Distribution Network with MS/HDPE/O-PVC pipes including Structures all along the Pipe Distribution network for Providing Irrigation Facility to 1765.0 Ha of Left Out Area in Jamakhandi and Mudhol Taluks, Bagalkot District including Filling up of 7 no's MI/ZP Tanks by Lifting Water from Krishna River under Mareguddi Lift Irrigation Scheme and Filling of Galagali Barrage by Lifting Water from Downstream to Upstream from Krishna River including Supply of Spares, Accessories and Tools including Operation and Maintenance of the Entire System for Five Years from the Date of Successful Commissioning of the entire System on Turnkey Basis." (Indent No : KNNL/2026-27/LI/WORK_INDENT4421).**

1) ಅಂದಾಜು ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಇಡಲಾದ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ. 110.30 ಕೋಟಿಗಳು, 2) ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ. 1.10 ಕೋಟಿ, 3) ಮೇ. ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ., ಕಾಫೀ ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 001, ಪೂರ್ವ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ : 23–05–2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ, 4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ / ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ : 29–05–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಘಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ, 5) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ : 12–06–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, 6) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು (ಲಕೋಟೆ–1) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ : 17–06–2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ, 7) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (ಲಕೋಟೆ–2) ಪೂರ್ವಾಹತೆ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು (ಲಕೋಟೆ–2) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗೆ ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದ ನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ.

ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ / ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ನಿಯಮ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ರಾಜಶೇಖರ),
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ., ಘಎದಂಕಾ, ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 3, ಬೀಳಗಿ.

ವಾಪ್ರಇ/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ/46/ಮಾಹಿತಿ/26–27

25001/148/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA
Email ID- serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

E-Mail / E-despatch

NOTICE
FOR PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY-IV)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH GePNIC "e"-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/NCB-03/RWC SBD/2026-2027

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads & Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana **(PMGSY-IV)** in the districts of **Malkangiri for 168 (one hundred sixty eight)** number of packages with estimated cost totalling to **Rs. 248.28 Cr (Approximate)** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with **State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways**. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement. Dtd. **16.05.2026**

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in.** The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda // Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division, Malkangiri-I & Malkangiri-II** on a date not later than **three working days after** the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: **05.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M**

For further details and corrigendum (if any) please log on to **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in.**

Sd/- **Chief Construction Engineer**
RW Circle, Sunabeda

OIPR-25001/25182/1/26-27/0016

25001/149/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA
Email ID-serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

E-Mail / E-despatch

NOTICE
FOR PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY-IV)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH GePNIC "e"-Procurement
Bid identification No. Online Tender/NCB-02/RWC SBD/2026-2027

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads & Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana **(PMGSY-IV)** in the districts of **Nabarangpur for 138 (One hundred Thirty-eight)** number of packages with estimated cost totalling to **Rs. 294.42 Cr (Approximate)** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with **State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways**. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement. Dtd. **16.5.2026**

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda // Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division, Nabaragpur-I & Nabaragpur-II, Umberkote** on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 05.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M

For further details and corrigendum (if any) please log on to **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
RW Circle, Sunabeda

OIPR-25001/25182/1/26-27/0017

25001/146/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, RAYAGADA
Email ID-ccerwcrayagada@gmail.com

E-Mail / E-despatch

NOTICE
FOR PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY-IV)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH OMMAS to GePNIC "e"-Procurement
Bid identification No. Online Tender/NCB-06/RWC RGDA/2026-2027

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Rayagada on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads & Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (**PMGSY-IV**) in the districts of **Rayagada for 99 (Ninety-Nine)** number of packages with estimated cost totalling to **Rs. 201.42 Cr** (**Approximate**) including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with **State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways**. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement. Dtd. **19.5.2026**

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Rayagada // Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division, Gunupur on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand**, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 10.06.2026 upto 5.30 P.M

For further details and corrigendum (if any) please log on to www.pmgsytenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
RW Circle, Rayagada

OIPR-25001/25196/1/26-27/0002

25001/147/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, RAYAGADA
Email ID-ccerwcrayagada@gmail.com

E-Mail / E-despatch

NOTICE
FOR PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY-IV)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH OMMAS to GePNIC "e"-Procurement
Bid identification No. Online Tender/NCB-05/RWC RGDA/2026-2027

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Rayagada on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads & Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (**PMGSY-IV**) in the districts of **Rayagada for 175 (One Hundred Seventy-Five)** number of packages with estimated cost totalling to **Rs 306.54 Cr (Approximate)** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with **State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways**. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement. **Dtd. 19.5.2026**

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Rayagada // Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Rayagada on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand,** failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement : 10.06.2026 upto 5.30 P.M

For further details and corrigendum (if any) please log on to www.pmgsytenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
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TIMES evoke

OF WINGS — AND THEIR TALES

We humans live among superheroes — the everyday bird, perched on your balcony, singing its sweet song, is in fact a mighty warrior who has overcome all manner of hardships to reach its nest. Birds, like all superheroes, aren't who they seem. We think they're cute, chirpy little beings — but they are the descendants of dinosaurs, those mighty prehistoric reptiles who once dominated Earth. Even among dinos as fearsome as the 9-ton Tyrannosaurus or the sickle-clawed Utahraptor, the birds we know today were the strongest — they survived an asteroid hitting Earth 66 million years, killing most species and setting off environmental disasters. Ancient birds survived earthquakes, volcanos, tsunamis, collapsing food chains — and thrived. Far from gloom at doom, early birds adapted to existing foods and ecosystems and developed new abilities. Over the years, as Earth itself revived, breathing, stretching and sighing into mountains and grasslands, seas and their shores, birds developed a dazzling range of sizes, colours, shapes, muscles — and songs.

No wonder avians have long fascinated humans, who can only stare with awe at their flights — some of these, as with the regal eagle gliding on 'thermals' or streams of air, are of fancy. Others, as with the Arctic Tern's 90,000-km-long annual roundtrip between Arctic and Antarctic, are existential, seeking ideal conditions for breeding, foraging and recharging in adequate sunlight. For these feats, birds have superhuman powers — they can see ultraviolet light, sense Earth's magnetic field, detect movement and position minutely and fly in perfectly coordinated flocks, have hollow bones and a syrinx which lets them communicate in calls, learn melodies handed down over generations — and mimic human speech. Like all superheroes, birds never sweat and their lustrous feathery capes are waterproof.

Birds first appeared on Earth 165 million years ago — we showed up just 6 million years ago. Homo sapiens can feel smug, thinking of our brain power, but a bird has 4 times more neuron value per unit volume than mammal brains, giving it extraordinary processing and expressive abilities. Today, several species, from dodos to Great Auks, have been eliminated into extinction by humans chasing their flesh and feathers. Many others face habitat loss, poachers and climate now. Will we finally drive off Earth what even an asteroid could not? A terrifying thought but there are solutions — as Times Evoke's global experts point out, learning the incredible lineage and abilities of birds will help us see them as far more than our next dish. Join TE in exploring the world of birds — and in respecting the presence of superheroes.

'We live with 10,000 species of dinosaurs today — birds are their descendants who survived'

***Steve Brusatte** is Professor of Palaeontology and Evolution at the University of Edinburgh. Speaking with **Srijana Mitra Das** at **Times Evoke**, he discusses birds and dinos, disasters, resilience — and why a thing with feathers can indeed be called hope:*

It's popularly believed dinosaurs went extinct after an asteroid crashed on Earth — how true is that?

■ It's not true at all because while almost all dinosaurs did perish, including the famous ones like Tyrannosaurus and those with horns and spikes, one type survived. They had feathers, wings and could fly — these are birds. Today's birds are dinosaurs. So, some dinosaurs survived the asteroid. Perhaps the Deccan volcanoes in India played a role. As they survived, birds diversified. There are now over 10,000 species of birds — that means over 10,000 species of dinosaurs live with us.

How did the Deccan Plateau volcanoes help?

■ Towards the end of the Cretaceous period, the last part of the age of dinosaurs, big volcanoes in India started to erupt. These were huge holes in the ground that opened and lava poured out for thousands of years, especially around when the asteroid hit.

That, of course, was the main reason most dinosaurs, along with 75% of all species, perished. Alongside, these volcanic eruptions were changing the climate and ecosystems — they too might have played a role. This was way back when India was an island — it had detached from the rest of the southern hemisphere before India collided with Asia.

You mentioned most dinosaur species were eliminated — why did one group survive?

■ I've written about this extensively in my new book 'The Story of Birds'. There are some important facts here. First, there were birds before the asteroid hit — 150 million years ago, around the Jurassic period's end, there were birds with wings made of feathers, able to fly. When the asteroid hit, there were different birds, some with teeth instead of beaks, some with big claws or long tails. Yet, only one type survived — these were the more modern-style birds, with beaks instead of teeth, small-sized, able to grow fast and fly really well. These features helped these birds survive when the asteroid hit.

Hoatzin, via S. Brusatte

ON THE FAMILY TREE: There are strong resemblances between South America's hoatzins and ancestors

That would have been chaos then, with earthquakes, wildfires, tsunamis, all the smoke from the fires and pulverised rock from the asteroid collision. All this went into the atmosphere and blocked out the sun for many years, and Earth would have been dark and cold. Trees would have perished without sunlight — so, being able to eat seeds with beaks would have helped as seeds last longer than most foods. Also, the ability to reproduce and grow fast would help, as would being able to fly very well.

After that happened, why did a tremendous variety of birds in size, colour, wings, flight abilities, etc., evolve?

■ When those few birds survived the asteroid, they'd have looked out on a largely empty world, with most species gone. So, there would have been abundant opportunities for them to evolve and do new things. They wouldn't have had as many competitors and in such freedom, they could experiment with different ways of flying, eating diverse foods, etc. — from that came the great diversity of modern birds.

If birds are dinos, could dinosaurs also sing?

We don't know — but it's a fun thing to think about. What we do know is that some fossil birds that lived at the end of the Cretaceous era with other dinosaurs could make sounds like birds today. We know this as we actually see the voice box preserved as a fossil, the unique organ that birds have where the throat meets the lungs and allows birds to tweet, chirp and sing. So, there were birds singing during the age of dinosaurs. But whether T-Rex, Triceratops or similar dinosaurs could sing, we don't know. We know that T-Rex wasn't roaring as shown in the movies sometimes — its vocalisation would have been more like a crocodile.

Deinonychus, Jonathan Chen, via S. Brusatte

iStock

THE REAL JURASSIC ARK: The Deinonychus dinosaur (R), as the fossil record shows, could grow upto 11 feet long, leaping and pinning down its prey — many modern birds also show several of these characteristics

EARLY BIRDS

Birds are intelligent and emotional — so, did dinosaurs have these qualities too?

■ It's a fascinating thought. Birds are really remarkable. Most of them fly, something humans have long dreamed of doing. They bear big brains for their bodies. A parrot, for instance, easily repeats something you say while crows and ravens recognise themselves in mirrors and make tools. Many animals use tools — a cow might use a stick to scratch itself. But crows take wire or twigs and twist them into hooks to get food. This is something only humans and some other primates can do. Also, some birds have empathy. Ravens, emus and others can understand the perspective of another bird — they know it's not all about them.

Given this, I think we can imagine dinosaurs also could have had intelligence and empathy. Mapping modern birds' qualities onto the family tree, the prediction is the common ancestor would have also had high intelligence and empathy. Some close relatives of birds, like Velociraptors, could have had the same. Velociraptor had very large brains. So, they were probably quite intelligent.

What happened to mammals with the asteroid crash?

■ We actually had ancestors that stared down the asteroid, small, furry little creatures that were probably the size of shrews or mice. They had hair, they could keep themselves warm, they could hide easily, dig burrows, eat different foods, grow fast and reproduce quickly. Now, these mammals had been living with dinosaurs for over 150 million years. They were always small, never growing bigger than a house cat, because the dinosaurs kept them so. However, they were diverse — there were swimming mammals, climbing ones, digging ones, even gliding mammals with wings of skin that would glide over the heads of dinosaurs. Once the asteroid wiped away big dinosaurs, mammals who survived took advantage of fewer predators and competitors — they began growing. Within 2,00,000 years, mammals the size of pigs existed. Within a million years, there were cow-sized mammals. Mammals survived and bulked themselves up, moving into some of the ecological niches the dinosaurs left behind.

Did smaller beings have an evolutionary advantage?

■ That depends on the environment you're living in, the climate and evolutionary pressures. When it comes to surviving sudden upheavals with change, it is often good to be small because you need less food, you can grow faster — and it's easier to hide.

You write of how, as the world warmed in the Paleocene, beings which survived the asteroid began moving across Earth — what implications does that hold for global warming today?

About 10 million years after the asteroid, there was a big spurt of global warming. The Iceland volcanoes started erupting. Back then, these were a lot more violent and as their lava came up, it burnt through Earth's crust, releasing greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane — yet, that did not cause a huge extinction. Rather, it unleashed waves of migration — animals could move around the poles now because the climate was so warm. So, this became an age of movement and familiar groups today, like rodents, primates and hoofed animals, spread around the world.

Credit: Archaeopteryx, via S. Brusatte

IN 'THE STORY OF BIRDS': Feathers are key

During this time, some mammals with hooves who lived in India went into the water, turned their hooves into flippers and started to swim — they were the ancestors of whales. Some of the most advanced and developed mammals we see today came out of this period of mass migration. That shows when environments change, there isn't always a big extinction — different things can happen.

Professor Brusatte will be speaking at the India International Centre, Delhi, on May 21

Teratorn, via S. Brusatte

ROOTS & BRANCHES: Scientists study the extinct teratorn bird of prey which faced climate change

Photos: iStock

OF A FEATHER...

● We humans like to preen — but we can't match the beauty **of the bird of paradise.** Members of the **Paradisaeidae family,** these birds with incredible plumage are found in **New Guinea and Australia, living in rainforests.** The males among these 44 species have **long feathers, extending upto 3 feet as tails,** elaborate head plumes and trailing streamers. These are all proudly displayed in courtship rituals — but this gorgeous bird doesn't just rely on its good looks. It **also sings and dances** to win its gal's heart

● The **kingfisher** is just 18 inches — but there's **nothing small** about it. This dazzling bird has **a dagger-like beak, inspiring the design of Japanese bullet trains,** giving it the **swiftest diving speed** — kingfishers live around rivers worldwide, catching fish — and **reducing splash.** Members of the **Alcedinidae** family, kingfishers also have a special membrane to protect their eyes as **they dive 3 feet deep after prey.** No wonder, with all their blessings, **a sight of them is considered such good fortune**

● The **shoebill** is **found in marshes across East Africa.** Earlier called a stork, genetic data now places it with **pelicans and herons among Pelecaniformes.** The shoebill grows to 5 feet, **its feet exceptionally large, middle toes 7.3 inches long.** This helps it hunt — the showbill famously **stands still as a statue till a hapless fish comes along.** The cute-looking bird's bill itself is 1 foot-long, enabling shoebills to even attack small crocodiles

Research: National Geographic, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Smithsonian Magazine

'From changing their calls in loud traffic to seeing 'status' through stripes, birds keep surprising us'

***Trevor Price** is Professor of Ecology and Evolution at The University of Chicago. Speaking with **Srijana Mitra Das** in TE, he discusses the quick adaptability of birds —but worries about a future with climate change:*

Trevor Price has been studying birds in the Himalayas since 1985 — and they still surprise him. The ornithologist tells TE about his research. 'We study birds of the Himalayas and, in particular, look at two aspects. First, we ask why the eastern Himalaya has many more species than the Western Himalaya. Second, how are birds dealing with climate change and other human-driven impacts/'

Importantly, well before we humans came along, ripping up trees and making malls on meadows, birds had learnt to deal with changing climes. Price says, 'Birds go back a long way. The last famous mass extinction 66 million years ago had a huge impact on them because that wiped out many dinosaurs, pterodactyls, etc. After that, birds radiated a lot but 34 million years ago, it suddenly got much colder. Massive ice sheets started to form in Antarctica. Global wind patterns changed, turning northeast India into rainforests. It's likely that caused birds from Indonesia to enter the Himalayas. These have subsequently evolved into almost half of all bird species, showing climate change effects.'

Birds continue to adapt today. Price says, 'My colleague at the Wildlife Institute of India, Tushar Parab, and I have written about how the call of the yellow-browed leaf warbler bird has changed in just the last 40 years. This is amazing as we're looking at 20 million birds, changing their language in just a few decades. This little warbler breeds in the Himalayas and goes northwards into Siberia but it spends its winter in India. It transits through Delhi, which is extremely noisy. We think the warbler has changed its call because of Delhi's loud traffic — the new call can be more easily heard against that noise than the old call.'

Photos: iStock

TRY AFTER LUNCH! Scientists have found the female among bird species can see colours differently than males, using this power to choose the most vibrant and healthy mate

Some changes are harder. Price remarks, 'With climate change, we will see whole new routes of migration. A classic example is birds from Germany that once wintered in a warmer Africa but with the expansion of the Sahara out toward the south now, they are really suffering.' There is no end, thankfully, to the ingenuity of birds though because, as Price adds, 'However, some German birds have actually learnt they could fly to England instead where they now spend their winter as an option to Africa because the winter in the United Kingdom is sufficiently mild and they can even find some fruit there.'

All that entails crystal-clear vision — Price, who has closely studied the evolution of colour vision in birds, elaborates, 'Birds can see into the shorter ultraviolet (UV) wavelength better than humans as well as seeing further into the red or long wavelength. Humans have three different colour photoreceptors and we can tell reds, greens and oranges apart quite well. But birds, with four types of cone cells, can see a wider spectrum of colours and certainly look further into the UV and the infrared. It's very difficult to study and understand this but one of the interesting things we've discovered is that in quite a few species, female birds have different colour vision than males. They see the world in a different way than males do. They can certainly tell a lot of colours apart. In some areas of the wavelength spectrum, particularly between the greens and blues, females might be able to tell colours apart better than males — one possible reason is that females choose males and they all want the brightest, most colourful one because that bird will have the highest fitness, be likely most free from parasites, etc. So, it's a premium on females to be able to tell different shades of blue apart — males,' says Price, with a gentle grin, 'Are much less discriminating.'

WINGING IT

There are other surprises. Price describes intense climate change in the Himalayas and outlines rainfall and hailstorm patterns in the region, 'If nesting birds there have laid eggs and there's a hailstorm, generally, they fly down the mountain and wait it out and then, they come back and sit on the eggs. If they come back, say, two days later, all that happens is the chicks in the egg stop growing for that duration — they resume when the parent is back and hatch just a few days later than they would have. Now, with significant seasonal shifts taking place, the birds are breeding earlier. Then, these massive hailstorms happen but the chicks have already hatched and the parents can't feed or protect them — that's when you lose them.'

So many of our actions — from wasting energy mindlessly to demanding never-ending rivers of goods, which means more and more deforestation — have tragic impacts on others. These remain largely hidden from our eyes, however, except for research by scientists like Price. Their work goes a long way in both bringing home the facts to us — as well as, in some cases, changing ground reality. Price says, 'The Amur falcon carries out this astonishing 22,000-km-long migration. It breeds in China and as winter approaches, it leaves and spends about a month in northeast India. Then, it flies all the way to Africa for the rest of the winter and returns to China afterwards. Now, earlier, people in India were catching the falcon and eating it. However, thanks to the determined efforts of conservationists and some great publicity campaigns, the falcon has become a big tourist attraction. Many people travel to see flocks of falcons over the reservoirs. This success story, turning a grim picture into a bright one, highlights hope for India and the world. More and more people are appreciating these birds and want to preserve them. They pay to see them, so people are economically better-off protecting the birds than just eating them.'

The surprises aren't over. Price mentions, 'We once did research on the little yellow patch on the wing of the warbler I mentioned — in that study, we painted the yellow patch to make it bigger. It turned out if you did that, the birds got larger territory. If you painted the patch green, so it looked like the rest of the bird, they got smaller territories. It's like in the army, where the bigger the stripe you've got, the more senior you are. That really astonished me, highlighting the complexities of these birds. They're just about six grams, the same as a box of matches, and yet, they live in the middle of freezing cold snow, wait for this to melt before they build nests, produce new generations and then fly all the way to southern India for winter, returning again to the freezing cold. The thought of this could exhaust many humans — but they do it, despite being so tiny. They are,' says Price, his voice warming as he likely thinks of all the birds he has seen 1985 onwards, 'truly surprising beings.'

HANGING OUT: The fire-tailed sunbird lives in Himalayan rhododendrons and conifers

READERS WRITE

Dear Times Evoke,

Thank you for the very inspiring article on Sir David Attenborough (8th May)! Varun, my son, is a great fan of Attenborough. A young adult with special needs, he's made a video on Attenborough which he has illustrated. This is his tribute for Sir David, which we are sharing with TE: https://youtu.be GkA48DoIpSw?si=rJzfW_PKTFg1BheR

— Veena Naren, Mumbai

Sir David Attenborough is a true planet saver, as TE highlighted on his 100th birthday. I've read his wonderful books and watched all his highly educational and lucid programs. His work reflects the need for more naturalists who can guide us towards respecting the powers of nature. Thanks, TE!

— Shree Kelkar, Pune

The article 'Bombs, Burgers and the Banality of Evil' by Srijana Mitra Das (28th April) couldn't have been more sensitive and movingly written. Humans are relentlessly destroying this planet, harming our cohabitants, flora and fauna, et al. Mother Nature belongs to all — she is not the property of Homo sapiens alone. Live and let live is the only way to an enduring world.

— Rita Dhalbisoi, Bhubaneswar

TE featured an extraordinarily heart-touching article on the truth of war, where animals are used and killed without their consent and no one questions why. Our cruelty towards animals indeed starts from our meals. If we treat our inhumanity as 'banal', the voiceless won't ever be heard. When we kill an animal, it's 'need'. If an animal kills a human, it's a 'threat'. A civilisation should certainly be judged by how it respects animals.

— Usha H. Kumar, Delhi

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To truly become a premier league, IPL must disrupt itself

BY INVITATION

HARSH GOENKA

The Indian Premier League is already India's greatest sporting success story. In less than two decades, it has transformed cricket from a sport into a high-voltage entertainment industry combining glamour, celebrity, commerce, fandom and athletic excellence in a way few sporting properties anywhere in the world have achieved. But today it stands at an important crossroads. Will IPL remain merely India's biggest cricket tournament, or can it evolve into the world's biggest sports league, comparable with the NFL, English Premier League, NBA and Formula 1? To achieve that ambition, it will need reinvention.

GAME ITSELF NEEDS TO BE FIXED

Let's start with the most uncomfortable truth: too many IPL matches have ceased to be cricket contests. They have become batting exhibitions. Flat pitches, tiny boundaries, power-hitting depth and the Impact Player rule have tilted the game so heavily in favour of batsmen that bowlers have been reduced to expensive extras. When scores of 220 or 230 become routine, spectators stop being amazed. A six loses its meaning when it arrives every other delivery. The most thrilling T20 matches were rarely the highest-scoring ones. They were the tense, tactical encounters where bowlers matter, captains strategise, and every run feels precious. Cricket's appeal lies in uncertainty. The fix begins with pitches. Curators must be encouraged, even directed, to prepare surfaces that offer something to everyone: some that assist pace, some that turn and some that reward batting skill. Variety of conditions creates variety of outcomes — the recipe for edge-of-the-seat drama which will keep fans coming back. The Impact Player rule also deserves urgent reconsideration. By allowing teams to effectively bat to number eight or nine, it has diluted the strategic value of wickets. A rule introduced for excitement has, paradoxically, made the game more predictable.

STADIUM PROBLEM

If the IPL aspires to stand alongside the world's premier sporting events, attending a match must be a joyful evening, not an ordeal. But most stadiums still struggle with basics such as clean toilets, adequate parking, efficient entry systems, and food that a family would willingly pay for. Compounding this is the culture of complimentary passes for politicians, bureaucrats, police, associations and sundry VIPs. This fills the best seats with disengaged guests while genuine fans pay premium prices or stay away entirely. A serious audit is overdue.

STORYTELLING & STARS

IPL's early rise was powered by larger-than-life personalities. Dhoni's calm. Kohli's intensity. Gayle's swagger. De Villiers' genius. More than mere players, they were stories, emotions, and cultural events. Fans tuned in as much for the personalities as for the cricket. That generation of icons is fading, and the league has not done enough to build the next. Part of this is a storytelling problem. Most franchises use social media like

STAR POWER: IPL's early rise was powered by larger-than-life personalities like Dhoni and Kohli but not enough has been done to build the next generation of icons

corporate noticeboards, showing scorecards, birthday greetings, and generic match previews. Global sports brands build passionate communities through humour, documentaries, podcasts, behind-the-scenes access and emotional narratives. Every IPL team should aspire to be a cultural identity. Chennai Super Kings, Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bengaluru have a loyal set of fans. Your city's team should feel like your city's heartbeat. Every franchise should aim for nothing less.

RETHINKING THE FORMAT

Scarcity creates excitement. When matches are played every evening for over two months, even passionate fans begin to treat the tournament as background noise. A tighter, sharper window, perhaps six weeks rather than nine, could make every game feel genuinely consequential. Also, move the IPL to the winter. Cool Dec and Jan evenings instead of the punishing heat of April and May will improve both player performance and spectator comfort. Tourism aligned with the IPL could flourish as winter is already peak season for international visitors to India. A winter window would also sidestep exam season, removing one of the biggest reasons younger fans disengage mid-tournament. Yes, this requires complex coordination with international cricket calendars. But the IPL is now powerful enough to demand that conversation.

BROADCAST & FANTASY FRONTIER

The GenZ viewer is simultaneously watching highlights, tracking fantasy points, following a player cam and reading tactical breakdowns, all on a phone. Proof of this is the staggering 800% increase in connected viewing in the last five years. IPL's broadcast product must evolve to meet the needs of younger audiences who consume sport differently. Mic'd-up captains during strategic time-outs. Player access during innings breaks. Immersive multi-feed viewing options. Fantasy gaming platforms have already demonstrated the power of emotional investment. Millions now watch matches involving neutral teams because they have skin in the game. This ecosystem, integrated responsibly within India's evolving gaming regulations, is an asset the IPL should leverage far more deliberately.

LARGER AMBITION

The world's greatest sporting properties are built on mythology. Wimbledon has tradition. The Super Bowl has spectacle. Formula 1 has glamour. FIFA World Cup has emotion. IPL has scale, talent and commercial valuation. What it now needs is timelessness — rivalries that become folklore, moments that transcend cricket, franchises that become institutions. The league was built on disruption. It will only reach its full potential through a willingness to disrupt itself. ■

Goenka is chairman, RPG Enterprises

Yamal can recreate Messi magic, but hope he doesn't end up like Neymar

Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, and now Lamine Yamal, La Liga has produced some of football's biggest stars, yet Spain's premier football league is still not a big fan favourite in India. ***José Antonio Cachaza,*** *whose new book 'Breaking into Cricketland: A Spanish Executive's Attempt to Sell Football in India' draws on his stint as La Liga managing director, talks to* ***Dwaipayan Datta*** *about the challenges of winning over Indian fans*

How difficult was it to sell Spanish football in India?

It was not easy, given the way the sports ecosystem works in India. Cricket doesn't just get 90% of the audience, 90% of the expense of broadcasters is around that sport. So, everyone else is fighting for the remaining 10%. And the fact that La Liga is behind the English Premier League in the eyes of football fans makes it even tougher. The Clasico (Real Madrid vs Barcelona) apart, everything else is a minor event compared to EPL. But football is a product of tradition, and EPL has been in Asia for years now, while La Liga has been in India in a big way only over the last 10 years.

Ronaldo left just a year after you took over. How challenging was it to sell La Liga after the big exit?

It doesn't help when a star leaves, but Real Madrid and La Liga are bigger than any player who played there. Fans may start following football because of a star, but once they are hooked to a team, they follow it all their lives. Otherwise, after 10 years of underperformance, Manchester United wouldn't still be among the top three followed clubs in India.

Lamine Yamal is the flavour of the season. Can he bring back the Messi magic?

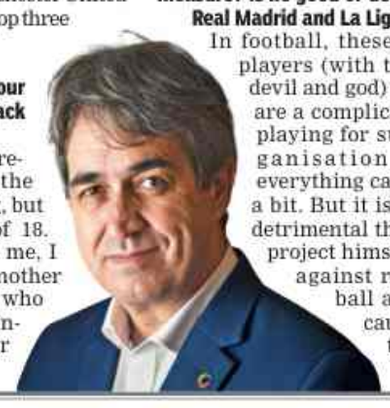
Yes, I think Yamal can recreate Messi magic. He is the biggest star in the making, but he is still a young boy of 18. And that's what worries me, I hope he doesn't become another Neymar — a broken toy who promised so much but underachieved after he left for Paris Saint-Germain. The fact that Yamal may not be fit for the World Cup because of a hamstring injury that he suffered playing for Barcelona makes me sad. It is because of the insane number of matches that players these days are expected to play for club and country. The stars have to show up everywhere, which is leading to so many injuries.

FOR THE RECORD

Do you think Yamal vs Kylian Mbappe can rekindle the madness of the Ronaldo v Messi rivalry?

They can, but it's difficult. The only parallel that I can draw with the Messi v Ronaldo rivalry is Magic Johnson vs Larry Bird in the NBA in the 1980s. Two magical players of a similar age and at their prime playing in the same league — that's just a dream situation. Kylian is about 10 years older than Yamal as well, and it is on La Liga to market it for the next 5-6 years.

What is your take on Vinicius Junior, a polarising figure loved and hated in equal measure? Is he good or detrimental for the Real Madrid and La Liga brand?



In football, these double-faced players (with the face of the devil and god) sell. When you are a complicated character playing for such a huge organisation like Real, everything can get distorted a bit. But it is definitely not detrimental that he wants to project himself as a fighter against racism in football and sports, because that's something that ex-

ists. And I would say it is good to have a player who creates so many headlines.

The World Cup is less than a month away, and no Indian broadcaster has picked up rights yet because the reportedly $100m ask from FIFA is too high. What do you think about the deadlock?

I have written about how Indian broadcasters are investing less and less on international rights. But I think the amount paid for the Qatar World Cup in 2022 was foolish. As per reports, it was $50m while Spanish TV only paid 35m euros and Spain was a participating nation. The broadcast value has to be much less this time because most matches will be played in the middle of the night in India. Having said that, FIFA can't allow a World Cup without an Indian TV audience. So, a deal will be reached, but it may be last-minute.

What is your take on the mess that Indian football is in right now? It was such a struggle to get the Indian Super League going, and teams got only 13 games. How big a blow is that for a nation that hopes to play in the FIFA World Cup in the near future?

Well, the good news is that they had a season after all. I have friends in Indian football, and I was following the situation. I think it was a total misjudgment of the situation by AIFF. They thought Reliance was making a lot of money from ISL, which they were not. The fact that the connection between investors and the federation was broken is not a good thing at all. And you cannot expect to be playing in the World Cup when there is a lack of competition, lack of good pitches for kids to play, and so on. Having said that, in places like Goa or Kolkata, there is no lack of passion for football. I was at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata for the 2017 U-17 World Cup final between England and Spain. There were 60,000 people at the ground, unthinkable even in Spain.

Finally, is Spain the biggest favourite of this World Cup?

Well, the European champions are always considered one of the favourites. But if you talk about the quality of players, France are right up there, with Portugal and Spain. Then, there's Argentina and Brazil. I know there's a lot of talk that Brazil aren't the best, but never discount their coach, Carlo Ancelotti.

Gulf War no blip. It's time to take some hard decisions on fertiliser 'revdis'

SWAMINOMICS

SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

In the name of patriotism, the Prime Minister has called on citizens to curb consumption of imported goods and foreign travel. But at the same time, by refusing to allow prices to rise in line with international rates, the govt is providing massive implicit and explicit subsidies that encourage the consumption of those very imported goods—crude oil and petroleum products, cooking gas, natural gas, fertilisers, and allied items.

The time for painful decisions has arrived. Prices should be raised to international rates. We must also seize this opportunity to reform the ridiculous fertiliser subsidy.

At the start of the Gulf War, markets assumed that the conflict would be over in six weeks, after which things would return to normal. Global inventories and emergency stocks, markets reckoned, would largely suffice to overcome temporary shortages. But the war has already continued for 11 weeks with no end in sight. Many expected Trump to declare victory and withdraw after six or seven weeks to avoid causing US inflation that would endanger his prospects in the Nov Congressional elections. But Trump has insisted that Iran must give up its enriched uranium as a condition for ending the war, something Iran will not accept. This torpedoes the notion that Trump will find some excuse or the other for ending hostilities.

Even if the war ends soon, the world will not go back to pre-war conditions. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has slashed 10% of global oil production and 20% of natural gas production. Damage to refineries and gas production could take several years to repair. Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran says Brent oil prices are up 51%, urea and ammonia 65%, and butane 51%. This is no temporary blip.

Physical shortages will persist for at least a year. Asian dependence on Gulf gas is especially high, and even more so on LPG, used for cooking. The production of plastics has been slashed globally because the raw material, naphtha, is in short supply. One tenth of world's aluminium production is down, and almost half of global helium production, used for high-end semiconductors.

This has caused a huge rise in prices of a variety of materials. That cannot be offset by subsidies and tax breaks anymore. India has cut the excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 10 per litre, a revenue loss of almost 0.4% of GDP in a full year. Over and above that, oil marketing companies are suffering huge losses, only partially pruned by the recent price increase of Rs 3/litre. The price of LPG for commercial users has quadrupled, but that for residential consumers not at all.

The rupee has depreciated 7% and is under great pressure. Foreign direct investment flows have turned negative because old investors are taking out accumulated profits. Foreign portfolio investors have pulled $ 21 billion out of Indian markets. The trade deficit threatens to triple. The longer the markets perceive the govt as funking price adjustments, the more the pressure they will put on the rupee.

We must also seize the opportunity to overhaul fertiliser subsidies. Urea price is less than Rs 300 per 45 kg bag, whereas the import price is Rs 3,000, ten times higher. In consequence, much urea is smuggled to Bangladesh and Nepal, and some is diverted to the production of chemicals. Yet the farm lobby is so strong that the govt has not dared increase the price. Urea is a major source of nitrogen for crops. Other nutrients—potash and phosphorus—are subsidised much less. The result is that farmers use enormous amounts of nitrogenous fertiliser and not enough potash and phosphorus, and this is destroying soil quality.

The govt should decontrol the price of all fertilisers and instead give all farmers a flat grant of Rs 5,000, paid into their bank accounts. The money should go to tenants and sharecroppers as well as operating farmers. This will take care of the needs of small farmers owning less than two hectares of land, who represent 89% of all farmers. Large farmers will have to bear a larger burden, but they already enjoy other grants and subsidies.

No govt can take such drastic steps lightly. But PM Modi has long criticised unwarranted subsidies as 'revdis'. The Gulf War has forced us to focus on fertiliser revdis.

Assembly elections in five states have just ended, and no election is due for several months. Politically, this is an opportune window for major reform. As Nike says, just do it. ■

A great-power summit that sends a message to the middle powers

BY INVITATION

ANUSHKA SAXENA

For all the pageantry of the highly anticipated US-China summit, the signals told the story of a deeply competitive relationship that is unlikely to return to the old normal. This is despite some convergence on market access, stability, and both leaders' apparent belief that Quad countries — without the US — should increasingly fend for themselves.

And yet, beneath the surface, tensions remain high and the two countries continue to differ sharply in both interests and values.

China's new phrase for the relationship — "constructive strategic stability" — captures this reality. In simple terms, it means accepting long-term competition but keeping it under control. For Beijing, this appears to be the formal framework for ties over the next several years. It accepts that rivalry between two major powers is unavoidable, while also signalling that diplomacy alone will not restore harmony.

President Xi Jinping repeatedly spoke about the need for both sides to steer the "giant ship" of US-China ties through choppy waters. That suggests China mainly wanted some room for manoeuvre, which was what the summit was all about. Expectations of a major breakthrough, or the emergence of some kind of G2 arrangement, should therefore be set aside.

That said, it is this room for manoeuvre that offers the most interesting takeaways from the meetings. First, Trump's priorities centered largely on securing sellable outcomes. To show willingness, Xi, too, agreed that China must open its markets wider. 17 American CEOs travelling with Trump hoped for exactly that.

Some deals Trump and his travelling salesmen did get. China agreed to purchase 200 aircraft, even though its own C919 aircraft is meant to compete with Boeing and Airbus in the future. Beyond promises on soybeans and rare earths, the more meaningful concessions on sales of Nvidia H200 chips and Tesla robotaxis will be much harder for Beijing to grant. These face either strict Chinese licensing rules or resistance because they compete with powerful Chinese firms such as Baidu and SMIC. That is the reality of 'reciprocal' market access today, despite the optics of Elon Musk and Xiaomi founder Lei Jun sharing selfies at the summit banquet.

The deeper problem in the relationship is that the US-China competition has now become the most aggravated in a few critical sectors, while China increasingly shapes the terms everywhere else. This does not mean American pressure has failed. It has clearly slowed Chinese ambitions in advanced semiconductors, aviation engines, biotech, and AI computing. In some areas, China still lags well behind the US. But there is also a reason behind why Trump appears to be seeking some accommodation since the Busan summit late last year.

Dependence is a two-way street, and China has retaliatory capabilities elsewhere — in rare earths and critical minerals, for instance, but also in the iPhone screens Tim Cook and Lens Tech CEO Zhou Qunfei likely discussed at the summit, or in agro-consumer goods Cargill CEO Brian Sikes cared about while in Beijing.

Faced with the choice between aggressively squeezing the Chinese economy or preserving access to those critical supply chains, Trump appears to have chosen the latter.

For now, he seems content to compete at the margins, so long as China's broader growth and ambitions remain manageable. That approach suits Beijing. As Xi himself told Trump, 'Making America Great Again' and the 'Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation' can go hand-in-hand. However, Xi, too, did not hold all the cards and got little from Trump on Taiwan.

NEW EQUATIONS: India can no longer count on US as a dependable partner in containing China, at least under Trump

The broader mood around the summit also reflected growing concerns about the reliability of the US as the centre of its alliance system — many parts of which were originally designed to balance China. This includes the Quad, semiconductor partnerships, NATO, and broader transatlantic arrangements. As Trump increasingly handles China through direct bilateral bargaining — while relying heavily on the American private sector — alliances appear to be becoming less central to US strategy.

For India, there are two major takeaways.

First, the era of the US acting as a dependable partner in containing China may effectively be over — at least under this administration, though the effects could last much longer. India will therefore have to push strategic autonomy much further by building stronger domestic capabilities and diversifying partnerships, including maintaining working ties with Beijing and Moscow.

Second, the Quad can no longer remain the centrepiece of India's regional strategy if Washington itself is stepping back from leadership. New Delhi will need to work more closely with Tokyo, Canberra, Seoul, Europe, and ASEAN to help build a regional balance that does not depend entirely on the US, even while maintaining stable ties with Washington.

The summit may ultimately be remembered as the moment middle powers were clearly told they were on their own. The space to shape what comes next remains open but navigating it will require careful steering in an increasingly difficult era of great-power competition. ■

Saxena is a staff research analyst with Takshashila Institution

How Rajasthan's Sikar became the coaching capital of hope and anxiety

BY INVITATION

ANURAG MINUS VERMA

On the night of May 4, just hours after more than 22 lakh students appeared for NEET-UG 2026, a man walked into a police station in Sikar carrying handwritten pages that allegedly matched the exam paper. A coaching teacher at a private institute, later assigned the title of a 'whistleblower', arrived at 1:30 am with what could be proof that one of the country's most important exams had been compromised. The policeman asked for a written complaint. The man left. Somewhere across India, millions of exhausted students were sleeping after months of preparation. They still believed they had participated in a sacred meritocratic ritual. Meanwhile, inside the paper leak economy, the more important question was no longer how many hours you studied, but how much you were willing to pay.

This is not even the first time Sikar, a small town in Rajasthan, has made it to the headlines. Before the NEET 2026 controversy, the town had repeatedly surfaced in investigations linked to paper leaks, suspicious guess papers, and recruitment exam scams involving REET, Patwari, SI recruitment, and even Army recruitment papers. Even in 2024, Sikar attracted national attention after an unusually high concentration of NEET top scorers emerged from its exam centres. The numbers sounded almost absurd. Of the 50 centres with the highest percentage of students scoring above 650 marks, 37 were in Sikar. More than 2,000 students from the district reportedly crossed the 650-mark. So what kind of strange things are happening in Sikar?

My hometown is Sikar, and my house sits inside this coaching neighbourhood. The coaching industry arrived here in 1996. In less than three decades, a town once known for sending young men to the Gulf for work and into the Army for stability, reinvented itself around teenagers solving biology and physics questions for social mobility.

Sikar was marketed as an affordable 'mini Kota'. But the praise carries the weight of student breakdowns and suicides. The model was the same. Students came from villages and small towns where families sold land, took loans, and put together every resource to push their child into the coaching machine.

Even my family took me to one of these institutes in 2011, showing me a small room where I was expected to study for the next two years without distraction. The existential dread of that PG almost pulled out an Edvard Munch kind of scream from me, and I told them I was ready to do anything to escape that life.

In Sikar, competitive exams are treated with the seriousness of military operations, and every student is a soldier trying to escape the humiliation of being called *berozgaar*. If someone gets selected, the entire town is informed through giant hoardings, photos of toppers hanging on electricity poles, local newspapers, and walls plastered with AIR ranks, which sometimes have headlines like 'Chu liya asmaan' (I have touched the sky). Institutes bring out DJs, garlands and parade toppers like local gods with rath-style processions. In 2016, one coaching institute

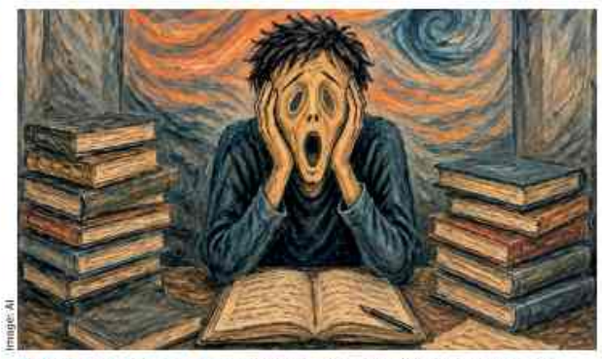


Image: AI

KICKING AND SCREAMING: Just the thought of being stuck in those tiny PGs for two years is terrifying but the humiliation of unemployment can be much worse

even gifted a BMW to a student for securing AIR 11 in IIT-JEE.

Every selection produces two emotions simultaneously. Relief for the family whose child made it, and melancholy for those whose children did not. Mothers stare at topper posters and wonder when the face of their own child will appear there. Happiness, shame, prestige, anxiety, marriage prospects, migration dreams, and family honour slowly become attached to rank lists. Everyone wants to become that family whose child cracked NEET or IIT.

Perhaps this is the only place where Ravish Kumar's old appeal, *Aap TV mat dekhiye*, was adopted with sincerity. Parents sacrifice their TVs when their children join a coaching institute so that they do not accidentally learn the dangerous art of relaxation. In the coaching economy, leisure is the ultimate sin.

Coaching institutes are enormously powerful entities, deeply tied to the politics and economy of the region. A successful institute slowly expands into hostels, franchises, real estate, and sometimes even private medical colleges. Some institutes even advertise that students who clear NEET through their coaching can later enrol as doctors in their medical colleges. The system feeds itself. This is the loop. But the reality is that this loop works too. Many families have escaped poverty because their children cleared competitive exams. This is true of my own extended family, where ranks changed the fortunes of households struggling financially. In today's India, these exams remain one of the few workable ladders of upward mobility. But the system itself is also vulnerable to rigging, exploitation, and manipulation.

This is also what makes the paper leak controversy so revealing. It exposes the desperation underneath India's aspiration economy, a desperation that inevitably opens up parallel markets of leaks, brokers and shortcuts. And along with it comes the unbearable emotional burden this machinery places on lakhs of students. Yet every year, thousands continue entering this system despite knowing how unforgiving and distorted it can be. Perhaps in India, the exam system survives not because people trust it, but because they distrust everything else even more. ■

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Why there is no NEET fix to the exam leak crisis

While the govt's move to an online test can address some of the issues, experts say the deeper problems lie in the huge fee gap between govt and private medical colleges, leaving millions competing for limited affordable seats

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EVEN CHINA'S GAOKAO ISN'T LEAK-PROOF

Many in India cite China's National College Entrance Exam called Gaokao as the model for a leak-proof exam, especially after China tightened the law in 2015 to make cheating a criminal offence. Individuals who leak test questions, answers or sell wireless devices can face three to seven years in prison. Even minor cheating can lead to jail time. However, data released by the Supreme People's Court (SPC) in June 2024 showed that even this has not prevented cheating. From Nov 2015 to April 2024, over 11,000 people faced penalties for organising cheating, selling test answers, or taking exams for others, according to SPC data. A teacher got four years in prison for organising a cheating ring in the 2020 Gaokao. Students caught cheating may face bans from state exams for one to three years and violations can make it almost impossible to secure employment in public institutions or govt jobs.

How often has the NEET paper been leaked? The honest answer, according to many in the coaching industry, is: No one really knows. The two brothers arrested from Rajasthan for their alleged involvement in the leak this year had announced on social media that five children from their family cleared NEET last year and got into govt medical colleges. Did question papers get leaked last year, too? One cannot be sure. Sikar in Rajasthan, a coaching hub, was one of the centres where a large number of students scored very high marks in 2024 as well. Given that printing is outsourced to private presses, and question papers are then transported over thousands of kilometres to over 5,000 exam centres, experts believe it is entirely possible that question papers have leaked several times in the past, with the matter coming to light by accident only in some years.

NEET leaks have been officially acknowledged in 2017, 2024 and now in 2026. In 2019, several candidates used proxies to appear for NEET, after which biometric checks were tightened. This time, a re-exam has been ordered for June 21. However, in earlier years, the leaks were ruled to be localised and did not trigger cancellation of the exam. Most experts dismissed the obsessive focus on the current leak and the people involved. "Such a scandal is a festival for all politicians as it gives them free airtime on TV. Arrests will not change the system. A 1,000 more people will replace those arrested," said R Subrahmanyam, former higher education secretary who was instrumental in establishing the National Testing Agency (NTA).

With education minister Dharmendra Pradhan announcing that NEET will shift to computer-based testing (CBT) from next year, as recommended by an expert committee earlier, the risk of leakage at the printing or transport stage has been neutralised. While some experts said the CBT format would be unfair to students from govt schools who might not have computers in their schools, others point out that the smartphone generation will adapt easily. Though CBT is not foolproof — paper solvers hacked into a system remotely in 2021 to take exams on behalf of candidates — experts said it remains significantly harder to compromise than pen-and-paper tests.

HIGH INCENTIVE TO CHEAT

"As long as the gap between the cost of public education and private education remains so high, there will always be a great financial incentive for malpractice," said Maheshwar Peri of Career360, an education products and services company. A high score in the all-India entrance exam could ensure admission into a govt college as opposed to a private one. The difference in fees between the two could range from Rs 10 lakh to as much as a crore. This becomes one of the root causes of leaks and cheating. So far, there is no govt move to address the huge inequity in MBBS fees, which creates an incentive to game the system. Having to spend Rs 10-20 lakh to buy the question paper could seem like a worthwhile one-time investment if it boosts chances of securing admission to a cheaper govt college. Clearly, the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act of 2024, brought in to curb such paper leaks, and organised malpractices in central recruitment and entrance exams like UPSC, SSC, NEET, and JEE, has had little deterrence in the face of such a huge incentive despite laying down penalties including 3-10 years in jail and fines of Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 crore, depending on the severity of the crime.

> We have to stop making three hours decide the future of a child, and give some weightage to school education
>
> **Maheshwar Peri,** CAREER360

INTENSIFYING DEMAND

From over 51,000 MBBS seats in 2014, the number has more than doubled to 1.2 lakh. However, the number of people taking the entrance exam has also gone up sharply from over 11 lakh in 2017, when NEET was implemented for the first time as a single mandatory national medical entrance exam, to over 22 lakh this year. The move to bring in a national exam was driven by the malpractices rampant in admissions to private medical colleges, which used to hold their own entrance exams.

JEE MODEL

Holding a national entrance exam which decides the fate of 22 lakh students over three hours on a single day has been deemed unfair, and the cause of unreasonable stress on students. However, the education ministry has continued with the format in the name of uniformity of difficulty and fairness, and the fear of a rash of litigation if it is changed. However, Subrahmanyam dismissed these arguments, pointing out that the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) for engineering colleges is already being done in several sessions. "There were some who went to court, and we explained the process of normalisation to the Supreme Court, and they were convinced, and now it has been established. Similarly, NEET too can be done online over several sessions using normalisation," said Subrahmanyam. Just like in JEE, NEET candidates could choose to register for more than one session of the exam to improve their performance, as only the best score will be considered for final ranking.

In JEE, different sessions and different shifts within a session have different question papers. Even if a session's paper leaks, the damage is limited, and the paper leak mafia would find it tougher to find takers for leaked papers as buyers wouldn't know which paper would be used in which session. The Radhakrishnan Committee, which was constituted after the 2024 NEET controversy, had also recommended transition towards computer adaptive testing and conducting exams across multiple sessions to reduce logistical pressure and improve fairness.

GREATER ROLE FOR SCHOOLS

Earlier, minimum 50% in class 12 board exams was the prescribed eligibility for the medical entrance test. This was changed, and merely passing the boards became the criterion, downgrading the importance of school education. This helped the coaching industry tighten its grip on students, as most concentrated on entrance coaching classes rather than on school. "We have to stop making three hours decide the future of a child, and give some weightage to school education. If class 12 marks are given weightage, students will have to focus on school education. Students who can't afford coaching can focus on getting 100% in school and thus balance some of the inequity in access to entrance coaching," said Peri. Subrahmanyam felt that it might be difficult to rely on board results with a plethora of school boards and poor assessment systems.

While public outrage has centred on those accused of leaking papers, experts across the spectrum say the larger challenge is redesigning the entrance exam system itself so that students are spared this agony.

RISING COMPETITION

Year	No Of Students Who Appeared For Exam (in lakh)	Approx No of MBBS Seats
2017	11.4	65,000
2018	13.3	68,200
2019*	14.1	70,100
2020	13.7	73,900
2021	15.4	82,700
2022	17.6	90,100
2023	20.4	99,800
2024	23.3	1,08,400
2025	22	1,20,000
2026	22	1,29,000

*NTA started conducting NEET. Before that it was conducted by CBSE

My unGandhian experiments with truth and chatbots

Mrs. Funnybones

TWINKLE KHANNA

8.15am The only thing free in life is bad advice. Especially in India, where from the moment we are born, someone is applying a kala teeka to our forehead on the recommendation of a chachi who once cured someone's bad back with haldi wala doodh. So, I was surprised to learn that ChatGPT now has over 100 million weekly users in India. This became personal when my younger one emerged from a bedroom to inform me that I was 'gaslighting' her. She had uploaded our recent argument into the chatbot. The verdict came swiftly. I was apparently 'manipulative' and possibly 'a narcissist' because I had refused to hand over her screen-time password. Naturally, I booked an appointment with my therapist.

Since I had to wait a day for the appointment, I had enough time to wonder why Indians suddenly needed artificial intelligence for guidance when we already live inside the world's largest unsolicited advice, or rather, interference, network. I then decided to conduct some experiments with truth. Not Mahatma Gandhi's version involving celibacy and moral discipline, but my own, using humans and chatbots as test subjects.

For an entire day, I decided I would ask chatbots and real people the same questions and compare the quality of advice. A buttered toast in one hand, I asked the chatbot, 'Do you think I've become old?'

The reply appeared before I had finished chewing my first bite. 'Not necessarily. Are you growing older? Yes. But perhaps differently than before.'

To keep the experiment fair, I now had to ask a sentient being the same question. Since the nearest options were my daughter and the dog, I chose the child.

She looked suspicious. 'You are 52, na? And I'm 13. That means you are 39 years older than me. Which is exactly four times my age. So, yes. Really old.'

'If only you used your maths skills in school like this!' I snapped before moving to the next question. 'How old do I look?'

The machine replied, 'Looking old is less about age and more about cues like posture, expression, energy and sleep. You can be 22 and exhausted and 60 and vibrant.'

My daughter looked me up and down. 'Not that old, Mama,' she said kindly. Then she added, 'But you have hair growing on your chin now.'

Clearly, I need to put on my glasses when I am moisturising.

As I reached for my phone to ask the chatbot another question, she narrowed her eyes. 'Why are you texting while talking to me? You keep saying I'm not allowed to do that.'

'I'm not texting, I'm conducting an experiment,' I said.

'See Mama? This is what I mean by gaslighting.'

10am After weeks spent working with my plumber on my balcony's various leaks, I treat him with the intimacy reserved for second cousins. While he works on my guest bathroom ceiling, I ask him, 'Why do houses in Mumbai always leak?'

My chatbot had already answered this question with monsoon exposure, humidity, salty air and ageing infrastructure. Perched on a ladder, he looks down at me and says, 'Didi, water always finds its way.'

'Can you fix it permanently?' I ask hopefully.

He shakes his head. 'What is permanent in life, Didi?' At this point, I feel like I am in the presence of a PVC pipe-wielding guru instead of Monu plumber. I try once more. 'At least give me a six-month guarantee.'

'Even God doesn't give guarantees,' he says. 'Then who am I?'

2.30pm I'd promised to catch up with a friend. As I wait for the lift, I notice two signs: Residents, and Staff and Deliveries. The first lift arrives, and I step inside with the liftman. 'Why are there separate lifts?' I ask as we inch towards the thirty-fourth floor.

'Society rules,' he replies.

I ask if the staff minds it. He says, 'No, everyone knows where to go. The only problem is when the staff member is accompanying a resident's dog. If I tell them to go to the staff lift, then that resident complains, and when we put them in the resident's lift, the eighth-floor madam complains.'

My chatbot states that common reasons include service movement and adds 'a class element'. Then it suggests renaming it 'resident and service elevator' for neutrality. When I ask it what to do about the maid accompanying the dog situation, it asks me to check the building's pet policy.

In my friend's lofty, cool apartment, I am handed cold nimbu pani. I tell her I am thinking of getting an air cooler for my balcony. It has finally stopped leaking, but I still can't use it because Mumbai now feels like living inside a Philips air fryer. 'You should just enclose the balcony and put an AC,' she says.

'But then it won't be a balcony anymore. Also, it's probably illegal.'

'Just bribe someone,' she shrugs.

Later, the chatbot informs me that air coolers work poorly in humid climates and suggests a misting fan and bamboo blinds for the balcony. Great advice that will also keep me out of jail for building violations.

7pm By dinnertime, I am at my mother's house. The moment I enter, she squints at me. 'You have two pimples. One on your forehead and another coming up on your chin,' she says.

My chin is clearly becoming a matter of grave familial concern. 'It's hormonal,' I say defensively. 'ChatGPT says falling estrogen affects skin and causes excessive sweating.'

She waves this away. 'It didn't happen to me, and my hot flushes were as bad as yours.' Then she peers again at me. 'Have you been eating mangoes? When you were a child, you loved them so much that through the season you had a yellow outline around your mouth.'

'Mom, stop exaggerating. Yes, I have been having a few mangoes now and then.'

'Have you been soaking them overnight?'

'There's no proof that works, see.' I triumphantly pull out my phone and show her the chatbot response. 'Scientifically, the idea of mangoes causing 'body heat' is not strongly proven, though many families continue the practice culturally.'

My mother looks unimpressed. 'Has your chatbot ever eaten a mango?' she asks. 'Since your Nani's time, we have soaked mangoes, and nobody got boils. This AI may know science, but has it raised two children into their fifties? And, I've noticed, you keep talking about hormones, menopause and getting old all the time. I am 67. Will it be so bad to end up like me eventually?'

'No Ma, it would be great actually,' I say.

Then she pats me on the shoulder and says, 'Just keep your pimply chin up, and it will pass quickly.'

9pm On my sweaty balcony, I tally the results of my experiments with truth. AI can explain humidity, hormones and quote statistics. But it can't make you wonder if you are learning life lessons while fixing a leak. It can answer questions, but can't tell you what you need to hear, whether it's a stray hair or the feeling that your life has stagnated. A machine's advice is like climbing a tree from the bottom to the top. Humans, like our predecessors, the apes, jump between trees. The leaps are unplanned, and the landings even more unexpected.

A chatbot can never care about your chin unless prompted. Indian families, fortunately or unfortunately, will never require such prompts.

Illustration by **Chad Crowe (USA)**

As I reached for my phone to ask the chatbot a question, my daughter narrowed her eyes. 'Why are you texting while talking to me? I'm not allowed to do that.' 'I'm not texting, I'm conducting an experiment,' I said. 'See, Mama? This is what I mean by gaslighting'

WHEN KOLHAPURI WENT COUTURE

After Prada's 'sandal scandal', Indian footwear labels are giving the chappal a high-fashion spin with sneaker and silk makeovers, bringing fresh attention to the craft and its artisans

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The intricate braid on a Kolhapuri chappal's upper strap is called the 'veni'. The toe-loop is the 'angtha'. Words once confined to traditional craft vocabularies now surface in a slick new video campaign by Gully Labs, a South Delhi sneaker label trying to reinvent the good old leather sandal.

Shot inside an abandoned fort, the video flashes images of kings and commoners alongside a sleek blue slide held up next to a traditional Kolhapuri. The toe loop is gone, replaced by a broad strap and a smaller braid, while softer Napa leather replaces the stiffness of older styles. The resemblance is faint but for co-founder Animesh Mishra, it is a modern makeover of the classic silhouette. The range, called Gully 004, launched last year and has since expanded into multiple colours ranging from saaya blue to khaki beige. "The Kolhapuri chappal has existed for generations, but its form hasn't really evolved into other categories. We want to reimagine the braids, motifs and stitchwork of the Kolhapuri style for different kinds of footwear like thongs and even hawai chappals," says Mishra, whose three-year-old brand, now set to expand to Mumbai and Bengaluru, earned more than a quarter of last year's sales from the Gully 004 range.

The Kolhapuri chappal has traversed a long, storied road. Born over 800 years ago in Maharashtra's Kolhapur region under 12th-century Kalachuri patronage, the sturdy buffalo-hide sandals were once worn by farmers, warriors and royalty alike. By the 1960s, backpackers had carried them to Europe and the US, where they were marketed as 'Jesus sandals' and embraced for their earthy, counterculture appeal. Rock stars like Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant were famously photographed wearing them. Since receiving the GI-tag status in 2019, the Kolhapuri chappal has increasingly come to be viewed as cultural heritage before it hit headlines with the June 2025 Prada controversy, where the luxury label's Spring/Summer menswear show featured uncredited footwear resembling traditional Kolhapuris and triggered backlash around appropriation. This April, Prada responded by launching a limited-edition 'Made in India' collaboration with Kolhapuri artisans from Maharashtra and Karnataka. Yet, there's unease over the stark price gap: Prada's version retails at roughly Rs 84,000, while authentic, locally made pairs can be bought in markets like Colaba, Janpath or Charminar for Rs 500 to Rs 1,000.

CHIC SHIFT: Besides glam versions with heels (below-right) by brands like Aprajita Toor, the chappal has spawned bohemian, vegan-friendly avatars (top) like the one by Studio Mend

Pom-poms And Platforms

Meanwhile, Indian designers and footwear labels have been giving the Kolhapuri a contemporary spin for a while now. Priced anywhere between Rs 2,000 and Rs 6,000, these updates aim to keep the original relevant for a new generation. If anyone helped move Kolhapuris from street-side bargain to fashion runways, it's Mumbai-based footwear designer Aprajita Toor. Often dubbed the 'Kolhapuri queen', she launched her label in 2012 with a batch of pencil-heel Kolhapuris. Today, her signature toe-loop styles reinterpret the craft with metallic finishes, zardozi embroidery, mirrorwork inspired by Kutch's Lippan art to woolly pom poms, Bandhani-style thread detailing and colours inspired by cities like Berlin. Materials extend to organza and mashru silk. But Toor rejects the idea of "reinvention". What she has done, she says, is "re-author" the narrative. "We are inspired by the art, no doubt, but we do not call it Kolhapuri as a mark of respect to the original work of the artisans and the place where the art was born," says Toor.

For centuries, different variations of the sandals — Kapashi, Pietaan, Kachkadi, Bakkalnali and Pukri — were tied to specific villages and styles before 'Kolhapuri' emerged as a broader umbrella term linked to the region's trading hub. Gunjan Narayanan of Ghaziabad-based Studio Mend gave her Kolhapuri lookalikes names rooted in personal experiences. Her debut 2020 collection, 'Hitchki', reimagined Kolhapuris inspired by objects and motifs from her travels across India.

Old Sole, New Fixes

Traditional Kolhapuris came in multiple variations. Some rugged workwear versions, made from thick buffalo hide and layered leather soles, started off almost as stiff as wood and reportedly took years to mould to the wearer's feet. Others became known for the cracking 'kur-kur' sound they made while walking. Another thinner variation featured side flaps resembling ears, which is how they got the name 'Kanwali'.

Today, designers have introduced cushioning, rubber soles, softer leather treatments and standardised sizing to make Kolhapuris more comfortable for urban wear. Studio Mend, for instance, extended women's sizing up to 45 and introduced memory foam and backstraps. "I had been wearing Kolhapuris since school, and they were so uncomfortable. I had calluses everywhere on my feet," says Narayanan. Though Kolhapuris are traditionally leather, Narayanan chose vegan leather instead. "When I was told I'd need four skins of animal leather just to make 12 samples, I was like, no way!" says Narayanan, whose brand uses PU-based synthetic leather with a higher rubber content.

Aatish S Chavan, co-founder of Kolhapur-based social enterprise Kalapuri Foundation, says years of testing and product development went into making the footwear more wearable for modern consumers. "I personally test every pair myself and have worn them in snow, at the beach, everywhere," says Chavan whose foundation also involves graduates from design and leather research institutes to understand how to overcome usual hurdles like the leather catching fungus or colour bleeding.

> We want to reimagine the braids, motifs and stitchwork of the Kolhapuri style for different kinds of footwear like thongs and hawai chappals
>
> **Animesh Mishra,** CO-FOUNDER OF GULLY LABS

Who Owns The Kolhapuri?

Traditionally, Kolhapuris were made in small home workshops, with artisans working in isolation. Kalapuri, however, built a producer-owned company where artisans are members and shareholders. After Maharashtra's 2015 cattle slaughter ban and tighter leather-tanning restrictions, Kalapuri rebuilt its supply chain in Tamil Nadu, opting for goat leather. When the Prada controversy erupted, it brought both frustration and opportunity. Search interest and sales surged as consumers suddenly wanted to know the real story behind the sandal. Kalapuri partnered on a book documenting the artisan ecosystem behind the craft and mailed a copy to Prada in Dec. "We wanted them to understand the legacy of Kolhapuri chappals," says Chavan. "It's not just a craft or brand. It's an emotion we've carried for 1,200 years."

Still, the question remains: how can heritage crafts evolve while sustaining the communities at their core? Reinvention cannot stop at design. It must also mean better ownership, wages and dignity for the artisans who sustained the craft long before fashion rediscovered it. Sheela Venkatraman Lunkad, founder of artisan platform Direct Create, trained as an architect in Kolhapur and owns pairs made by artisans who are no longer alive. She admits these heritage slippers don't love you back easily. Despite years of hacks — sunning them, softening with coconut oil — they remain stubbornly rigid. For her, innovation is necessary, but it must come from respect rather than superiority. The famed stiffness and long break-in period, she argues, were products of available materials. "People are only using the decorative aspects of the Kolhapuri craft. Real innovation has a 360-degree approach to culture, context and tradition. Honestly, people in Kolhapur and nearby villages should be buying your designs," she says of Indian labels. "Or are you also trying to be another Prada?"

Jatin Kumar

Trump faces thorny questions on Taiwan, trade

Prez On Taiwan: Not Looking To Travel 9,500 Miles To Fight A War

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US President Trump lumbered back to the White House on Friday bringing back with him seeds of discord from Beijing despite assertions to the contrary. The promise of Chinese rose seeds for the White House Rose Garden from Xi Jinping, meant to be a diplomatic bouquet, instead highlighted the increasingly thorny relationship between the world's two largest powers after their 36-hour summit was dominated not by trade or tariffs, but by the explosive question of Taiwan.

Although Trump proclaimed his visit to Beijing a "tremendous success" and a "historic moment," in brief comments to reporters (in contrast to his normally voluble engagement), the US foreign-policy establishment is concluding that the summit exposed a shifting balance of power in which Taiwan has become the central fault line in the US-China relations.

In podcasts, former Trump communications director Anthony Scaramucci bluntly said Trump had "his ass handed to him" in Beijing. Chas Freeman, a former US ambassador who as a young diplomat served as a translator to Richard Nixon during his breakthrough visit to China, said Americans are underestimating Beijing's growing influence and the power shift.

It now transpires that what began as a visit ostensibly focused on trade, Iran and economic stabilisation quickly evolved into an intense negotiation over Taiwan, with Xi reportedly warning Trump that mishandling the "Taiwan question" could jeopardize "the entire relationship" between Beijing and Washington.

Trump headed home from the summit sounding markedly more equivocal than many Taiwan supporters in Washington had expected. Speaking aboard Air Force One, he refused repeatedly to say whether the US would defend Taiwan militarily in the event of a Chinese attack. In an interview on Fox News, he was even more explicit about his reluctance to be drawn into a conflict over the island.

"I will say this: I'm not looking to have somebody go independent," Trump said, referring to Taiwan. "And, you know, we're supposed to travel 9,500 miles to fight a war. I'm not looking for that. I want them to cool down. I want China to cool down."

The remarks triggered alarm among Taiwan hawks in both parties who fear Trump is edging away from Washington's longstanding posture of "strategic ambiguity" toward what some critics called strategic surrender. The US Prez also disclosed that he discussed arms sales to Taiwan "in great detail" with Xi and refused to commit to a pending $14 billion weapons package for Taipei. Critics said that merely discussing potential Taiwan arms transfers with Beijing risked undermining one of President Reagan's "Six Assurances" to Taiwan, which promised Washington would NOT consult China on such matters.

The summit also underscored why Taiwan has become central to global geopolitics. The island dominates advanced semiconductor manufacturing. Trump himself highlighted the issue, urging Taiwanese companies to make the chips in America.

Xi, meanwhile, appeared to use the summit to reinforce Beijing's long-standing position that Taiwan represents China's ultimate red line while disdaining the US offer to sell Nvidia H-200 chips.

American analysts across the ideological spectrum described a US president who appeared eager for deliverables while Xi calmly dictated terms. Trump nevertheless insisted he had secured major commercial victories.

Trump claimed China would order 200 Boeing aircraft, with purchases eventually reaching 750 planes. Yet Beijing issued no formal confirmation. Boeing shares fell sharply because investors had anticipated a far larger immediate order exceeding 500 aircraft.

Similarly vague were Trump's assertions that China would buy huge quantities of American soybeans, corn and agricultural products.

Remarkably, Trump admitted tariffs "were not brought up" in talks with Xi despite trade tensions being central to the visit. Trump also appeared unable to secure Chinese cooperation on Iran or win concessions on behalf of jailed Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai. During the 2024 campaign, Trump had boasted that securing Lai's release would be "easy".

Even the final imagery of the trip reflected the deep mistrust underlying the diplomatic choreography. As the US delegation boarded Air Force One, White House security personnel reportedly discarded Chinese-issued phones, commemorative gifts, pins and souvenirs into trash bins beside the aircraft stairs amid espionage fears.

Israeli hit kills Hamas military wing leader

Tel Aviv: An Israeli airstrike in Gaza killed the leader of Hamas' military wing who was one of the last surviving architects of the attacks that triggered the war in 2023, the Israeli military said Saturday. Hamas confirmed the death.

Izz al-Din al-Haddad was killed on Friday, Israel's army said, describing him as one of the senior Hamas military commanders who directed the planning and execution of the Hamas-led attacks on Oct 7, 2023, which killed around 1,200 people in southern Israel and saw more than 250 taken hostage.

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas remains fragile, and the top diplomat overseeing it says it has stalled because of the deadlock over disarming Hamas.

Both sides have traded accusations of violations. Gaza has seen near-daily Israeli fire with more than 850 people killed in the Palestinian territory since the ceasefire went into effect in Oct, according to Gaza health ministry.

Israel said that al-Haddad had assumed the role of Hamas commander after his predecessor, Mohammed Sinwar, was killed. Al-Haddad's family confirmed his death. Six others, including his wife and daughter, were also killed. His two sons were killed earlier in the war. AP

IS leader dead in joint mission by US, Nigeria

Washington: US and Nigerian forces killed a leader of the Islamic State group in Nigeria in a mission carried out Friday, US President Trump said.

Trump, in a late-night social media post, said Abu Bakr al-Mainuki was second-in-command of the Islamic State group globally and "thought he could hide in Africa, but little did he know we had sources who kept us informed on what he was doing".

Al-Mainuki was viewed as the key figure in IS organising and finance, and had been plotting attacks against the US and its interests, according to an official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu confirmed the operation and said Al-Mainuki was killed alongside "several of his lieutenants, during a strike on his compound in the Lake Chad Basin".

The operation is the latest by both countries since their new security partnership kicked off in 2025 after Trump claimed Christians were being targeted in Nigeria's security crisis and threatened US military intervention. AP

Putin to visit China, days after Trump's trip

Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on a two-day trip to Beijing next week, the Kremlin said Saturday.

The announcement comes less than 24 hours after US President Trump finished his own state visit to China. In a statement, the Kremlin said Putin's trip, planned for May 19-20, had been scheduled to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the 2001 Sino-Russian Treaty of Friendship.

It said that the two leaders would discuss bilateral relations as well as "key international and regional issues" and economic cooperation.

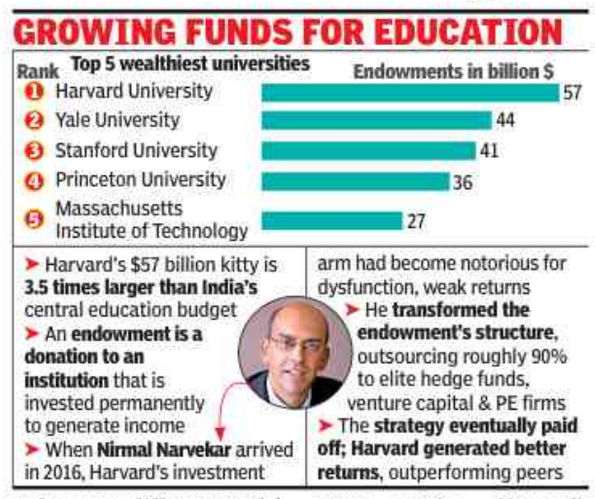
Relations between China and Russia have deepened in recent years, particularly since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. AP

US lets Russia oil sales waiver expire

The Trump administration allowed a waiver that encouraged more Russian crude sales to lapse, even as the Iran war stokes concerns about global oil supplies and higher fuel costs. The expiration effectively ends for now a brief period where the administration eased sanctions on some Russian oil, enabling purchases that would otherwise be barred. The Trump administration issued an initial waiver in March and a second after the first expired in April — both applying only to a subset of Russian oil that had already been loaded onto tankers. BLOOMBERG

PIO Narv Narvekar, manager of Harvard's $57bn kitty, bows out

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN



Washington: Nirmal Narvekar, the Indian-American financier who spent nearly a decade reshaping the investment machinery behind Harvard University's colossal $57 billion endowment, is preparing to retire, closing one of the most consequential – and controversial – chapters in modern university finance.

Known on Wall Street and in Ivy League circles simply as "Narv," Narvekar reportedly informed Harvard's governing board that he would step down in 2027 after giving the university time to prepare a succession plan. His departure comes as Harvard's $57 billion kitty — the largest university fund in the world, 3.5 times larger than India's central education budget — sits at the centre of a political and financial storm triggered by the Trump administration's cuts to federal funding.

Narvekar's career drew attention to the extraordinary scale of American university endowments — a concept still relatively underdeveloped in India. Harvard's $57 billion fund dwarfs the financial resources of most countries' entire university systems and education budgets. In the US, endowments function as perpetual investment engines. Universities spend only a fraction of annual returns while preserving principal for future generations.

India historically developed a very different model. Most public universities depended overwhelmingly on govt funding, while private institutions relied on tuition or philanthropic trusts rather than professionally managed investments. Only recently have institutions such as IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi and Ashoka University begun cultivating alumni-driven endowments.

Yale's endowment, interestingly, traces back symbolically to colonial India: the university was named after Elihu Yale, the East India Company governor of Madras who donated goods and money to the fledgling institution in the early 18th century.

Narvekar arrived at Harvard in 2016 after running Columbia University's endowment and inheriting what many viewed as a troubled investment empire. Harvard's investment arm had become notorious for internal dysfunction, weak returns and leadership churn after suffering a devastating 27% loss during the 2008 financial crisis, forcing it to sell private-equity stakes at distressed prices.

Over the next decade, he transformed the endowment's structure, moving from managing about 40% of its assets internally to outsourcing roughly 90% to elite hedge funds, venture-capital firms and private-equity managers. He also embraced the so-called "Yale model" pioneered by legendary Yale investor David Swensen, who revolutionised university investing by shifting away from conventional stocks and bonds toward alternative assets like venture capital, hedge funds and real estate.

Under Narvekar, Harvard doubled its exposure to private equity, gaining access to coveted investments in firms such as SpaceX and Stripe. The strategy eventually paid off. Harvard generated annualised returns of 8.1% over the past three years, outperforming Yale and Princeton.

Yet Narvekar's tenure also attracted fierce criticism, especially from conservative commentators and some Harvard insiders who argued he made the university dangerously dependent on illiquid assets such as hedge funds and private equity. Former treasury secretary and ex-Harvard president Lawrence Summers once remarked acidly though that if Harvard had merely matched the performance of its Ivy League peers, the university could have been roughly $20 billion richer. While many finance experts consider such critiques exaggerated, they nevertheless reflected broader anxieties about whether elite American universities have become too dependent on opaque Wall Street-style investing.

Narvekar himself remained famously publicity-shy throughout his career. Born into an Indian family and educated at Haverford College before earning an MBA from Wharton School, he built his reputation not as a celebrity investor but as a disciplined institutional allocator.

Wall Street insiders stunned by over 3,700 Trump trades

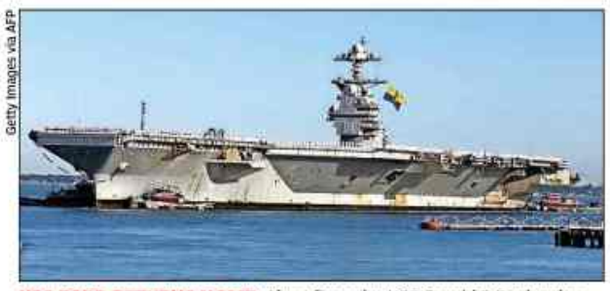
President Trump's latest financial disclosures show that he or his investment advisers made more than 3,700 trades in the first quarter, a flurry totalling tens of millions of dollars and involving major companies that have dealings with his administration.

The transactions, spelled out in documents filed Thursday with the US Office of Government Ethics, list purchases and sales in broad ranges, making it hard to calculate an exact value. But the volume of trading — over 40 per day over a three-month period — stands out as much as the potential dollar value. "This is an insane amount of trades," said Matthew Tuttle, chief executive officer of Tuttle Capital Management, in an interview, adding that it looks more like something done by "a hedge fund with massive algo trades".

In the first quarter, the president bought $1 million each in firms including Nvidia, Oracle, Microsoft, Boeing and Costco. Trump has made a number of policy moves that affect the publicly listed companies he traded, and he interacts regularly with many of the executives of those firms.

Unlike his predecessors, Trump didn't divest or move his assets into a blind trust with an independent overseer. Federal law only required officeholders to report transactions involving securities after the passage of the STOCK Act in 2012. BLOOMBERG

Getty Images via AFP



USS FORD RETURNS HOME: Aircraft carrier USS Gerald R Ford arrives at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia Saturday. It returned from a 11-month deployment, longest since Vietnam War, supporting the US war with Iran and the capture of Nicolás Maduro when he was Venezuela's president

Drones will define future wars: US Army

Washington: The US Army has told lawmakers that drones, artificial intelligence and autonomous systems are rapidly reshaping modern warfare, as senior military leaders pointed to lessons from the Ukraine conflict and warned that future battlefields will be dominated by low-cost, scalable unmanned technologies.

Appearing before the House Armed Services Committee, US army secretary Daniel Driscoll said the character of war was changing at unprecedented speed and militaries that fail to adapt risk being left behind. He said the Army was moving aggressively to integrate autonomous systems, battlefield AI and open-architecture command systems into future operations. The remarks came during a heated hearing on the Army's fiscal year 2027 budget request.

US Army has launched an integration effort called "Operation Jailbreak" at Fort Carson, Colorado, where defence contractors and engineers are trying to break down software barriers that prevent military systems from sharing battlefield data seamlessly. IANS

Pak minister arrives in Tehran to push talks

Pakistan's interior minister Mohsin Naqvi arrived in Tehran on Saturday "to facilitate" the peace talks between Iran and the United States that have stalled despite a fragile ceasefire, Iranian media reported. AFP

Maldives rescue diver dies in search for four missing Italians

AP

Divers prepare to search for the missing divers near Alimathaa Island, Vaavu Atoll, Maldives, on Saturday

Colombo: Maldivian authorities on Saturday suspended the search for the bodies of four Italian divers believed to be deep inside an underwater cave, after a military diver died during a perilous mission to try to reach them.

The group of five Italian divers is believed to have died while exploring a cave at a depth of about 50 meters (160 feet) in Vaavu Atoll on Thursday, according to Italy's foreign ministry. The recreational diving limit in the Maldives is 30 meters (98 feet).

Maldives presidential spokesman Mohamed Hussain Shareef said the search was suspended after Mohamed Mahudhee, a member of the Maldivian National Defense Force, died of underwater decompression sickness after being transferred to a hospital in the capital.

Authorities are awaiting the arrival of three Finnish divers, experts in deep and cave diving, on Sunday, to rethink their search strategy.

Rough weather has repeatedly hampered rescue efforts. Search operations on Saturday involved eight local divers who worked in shifts to locate the missing Italians, the Italian ministry said. Initial teams had already dived to identify and mark the entrance to the cave system where the Italians disappeared. The cause of the deaths remains under investigation.

Italy's foreign minister Antonio Tajani said everything possible would be done to bring the victims home. He offered his condolences for the death of the Maldivian diver during the rescue efforts.

The victims have been identified as Monica Montefalcone, an associate professor of ecology at the University of Genoa; her daughter, Giorgia Sommacal; marine biologist Federico Gualtieri; researcher Muriel Oddenino; and diving instructor Gianluca Benedetti, according to the Maldivian govt. Benedetti's body was recovered Thursday. His body was found near the mouth of the cave.

Montefalcone and Oddenino were in the Maldives on an official scientific mission to monitor marine environments and study the effects of climate change on tropical biodiversity, the University of Genoa said in a statement Friday. However, the scuba diving activity during which the deadly accident occurred was not part of the planned research and was "undertaken privately," it said. AP

British museum returns 2,000 manuscripts to Jain community

Naomi Canton

Steven Pocock, Wellcome Collection

Adrian Plau of Wellcome Collection and Mehool Sanghrajka of Institute of Jainology view the manuscripts

London: Two thousand Jain manuscripts bought by British pharmaceutical entrepreneur Sir Henry Wellcome, which had been held by the Wellcome Collection in London, a museum set up after his death to hold all the items he had collected across the world, are now being returned to the Jain community.

The collection, believed to be the largest of Jain manuscripts outside South Asia, spans the 15th to 19th centuries. They are being transferred to the Dharmanath Network in Jain Studies at the University of Birmingham and will be owned by the Institute of Jainology, which represents 65,000 Jains in the UK.

Sir Henry amassed a considerable fortune and collected thousands of manuscripts, medical equipment, paintings and sculptures. He bought them at auctions and agents also travelled the world to acquire them for him. He left everything in his will to the Wellcome Trust.

Around 1,200 of the manuscripts were bought in 1919 from a single Jain temple in Pakistan Punjab; the temple no longer exists. "One of his agents came across this collection in a temple library in what he describes as 'Malwa'," explained Wellcome's information lead Dr Adrian Plau, who researched and initiated the landmark restitution.

"The agent wrote back to the London company secretary and said he had been offered this collection at a very low price and actually uses the phrase 'If it was in learned hands they would not part with it.' It is unclear who he spoke to. The instructions from London were to try and get it even cheaper. In the end it seems he paid around Rs 5 per manuscript. That is very low," Plau said.

The manuscripts include the 1854 treatise "On English People, the Servants of Jesus" by Ratanchand, Nainsukh's Vaidyamanotsav, or "A Celebration of Physicians", dated 1688 (possibly the earliest surviving copy of the 1592 text) and an early 16th century illustrated copy of Kalpasutra.

"If you look at the turmoil post-Partition, it is unlikely these would have survived if they had stayed in Punjab, and without preservation they would have massively deteriorated," explained Institute of Jainology managing trustee Mehool Sanghrajka.

"We are grateful to Wellcome for the care and respect they have shown these texts. It made little sense sending them back to the area where they came from as there is no Jain community nor any Jain temple in Pakistan now," Sanghrajka said, adding Birmingham University, with its global outreach, seemed like the obvious choice.

"The community is overjoyed and this will play a huge part in the drive for Jain academia," he said.

AI may tilt job market leverage to older workers

When it comes to job cuts, older workers are often disproportionately affected. But a new survey of chief executive officers suggests this won't be a given as companies adopt artificial intelligence (AI).

More than 40% of CEOs plan to cut junior roles over the next one to two years and shift the composition of their workforce toward mid-level or senior positions, while only 17% plan to make junior roles a bigger part of the mix, according to a global survey by Oliver Wyman. The numbers are essentially flipped from just a year ago. "I think the junior level is definitely finding it harder now to enter the workforce," said John Romeo, who leads the consulting firm's research arm, the Oliver Wyman Forum. "It's those mid- and senior-level employees that CEOs are now looking at to drive productivity."

That's because of the types of tasks that AI agents are able to perform, from writing code at the level of a junior developer to evaluating sales leads. What the agents can't do in many fields is make judgment calls using the insight that comes from on-the-job experience, say labour experts.

Companies are saying, "I need someone who's actually done this before because her experience, her wisdom, her critical thinking and the fact that she solved these problems makes her much more valuable," said consultant and lecturer Ravin Jesuthasan, who has written on the future of work.

The Oliver Wyman survey results build on findings from a Harvard University study showing that firms adopting generative AI have significantly reduced junior-level positions, while keeping senior employment largely stable.

Foregoing younger talent now in favour of AI agents comes with significant risks, though, as it may leave firms with a shortage of experienced workers in the future, says Helen Leis, global head of leadership at Wyman. Even if AI is tipping the scales toward older workers, it's no guarantee of job security. "Firms' commitment to workers is weaker and weaker," said Teresa Ghilarducci, a labour economist at the New School. BLOOMBERG

DAILY PLANET

AFP

LIGHTING UP SEOUL: Participants gather with lanterns during a parade as part of a 'Lotus Lantern Festival' to celebrate the upcoming birthday of the Buddha, in Seoul on Saturday

Bus-train crash kills at least 8 in Thailand capital

A collision between a freight train and a bus killed at least eight people and injured more than 30 in the Thai capital Bangkok on Saturday, police said. Firefighters and rescue workers cordoned off the collision site, with investigators seen peering into the burnt-out shell of the bus. Deadly transport accidents are common in Thailand.

Norway arrests 27 at Oslo biker gang gathering

Norwegian police said Saturday that they had arrested 27 people at a gathering organised by a criminal biker gang in Oslo. Police said in a statement that the arrests were made at an event organised by the group Comanches MC.

No vaccine for latest Ebola outbreak: DRC

An Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) that has caused at least 80 deaths has a "very high lethality rate" and no vaccine or specific treatment, the country's health minister warned Saturday. Nearly 250 suspected cases of the highly contagious haemorrhagic fever have been recorded in DR Congo, according to the health ministry.

Snap, YouTube, TikTok settle school suit

Snap, Google's YouTube and ByteDance's TikTok reached agreements to settle the first lawsuit headed to trial over claims that addiction to top social media platforms has disrupted learning and pushed public schools to spend massive sums fighting a mental health crisis, according to court filings. The terms of the settlements weren't disclosed in Friday's filings. The settlement leaves only Meta Platforms to face off with a rural Kentucky school district in a trial set to begin June 12 in federal court in California.

SpaceX may file for IPO as soon as next week

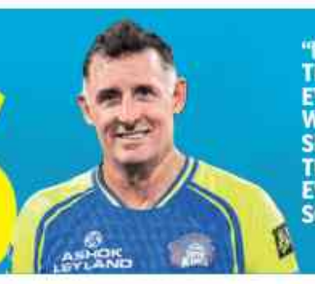
Elon Musk said he is not selling any SpaceX shares, with the company reported to be preparing to file publicly for its long-awaited IPO as soon as next week.

TODAY'S FACE-OFF
PBKS vs RCB
TV TIME 3:30 PM
STAR SPORTS / JIOHOTSTAR

PLAYED 37
Won by PBKS 18 (48.64%)
Won by RCB 19 (51.36%)

LAST FIVE MATCHES
PBKS L L L L L
RCB W W L L W
VENUE: DHARAMSHALA
ODDS
PBKS 5/4
RCB 8/10

IPL 2026



"I ACTUALLY LOVE THIS TIME OF THE TOURNAMENT BECAUSE EVERY GAME IS LIKE A FINAL. WE'RE IN THAT SORT OF SITUATION NOW. THIS IS WHERE THE PRESSURE IS REALLY ON EVERYONE. AND, YOU CAN SEE SOME CRAZY THINGS HAPPEN."
—Michael Hussey | CSK batting coach

Focus on Arshdeep's struggles

Punjab Kings Run Into RCB As Champions Eye Playoff Spot

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

Pics: PTI

GEARING UP: Virat Kohli (left) with teammate Suyash Sharma during a training session in Dharamshala on Saturday. **Right:** Arshdeep Singh

Dharamshala: Arshdeep Singh didn't look like his usual self during practice here on Saturday afternoon, a day before Punjab Kings take on table-toppers Royal Challengers Bengaluru in a make-or-break match. The Punjab fast bowler eschewed the customary banter with teammates and instead had intense conversations with head coach Ricky Ponting. For a cricketer known to ease dressing-room tensions in tough situations, India's premier left-arm seamer has been visibly subdued in the IPL.

Arshdeep scaled the zenith of success with back-to-back triumphant World Cup campaigns in the first week of March. In two months' time, he finds himself at rock bottom in the foothills of the daunting Dhauladhar range here. Arshdeep's unusually low season is a major reason why Punjab Kings have inexplicably plunged from the peak they attained halfway through the tournament.

PREVIEW

Be it the controversies erupting from his social media presence or bowling on flattest of pitches, one has been wandering what must be ailing Arshdeep. The Punjab Kings management has also been hunting for answers. Perhaps he is not at his physical peak.

"We've been working together a little bit and looking at his body, (to see) if there are any restrictions in his body that might be a reason for some of his performances being up and down. We think we've hit on a bit of a winner there. He's been feeling a lot better in the last couple of weeks, physically," Andrew Leipus, Punjab Kings' head of sports science, responded to a query from TOI. Leipus' revelation goes some way towards explaining why Arshdeep's deliveries appeared to lack zip. He has struggled to nail the yorkers or the bouncers in crunch situations the way he used to over the last couple of years. Even as he was quietly grappling with his physical issues, the off-field controversies seem to have weighed him down.

Leipus didn't dismiss the scial-media chatter going around but also insisted that Arshdeep is holding his own in the dressing room. "I know there's been a bit of chatter behind the scenes of various things going on — vlogging and what not. In terms of his behaviour and attitude, Arsh is pretty much a flat line. He's not up or down. He gives his best out there. He's a very loud person in the dressing room. That hasn't changed. He's very calm," Leipus said.

"One of the best things the ICC ever did was take phones away. When you're in that team environment, it's not an issue. It's outside that (environment) when it becomes an issue. I've heard rumours. I think potentially it is something that needs to be addressed," he added. Arshdeep doesn't have to look beyond the opposition dugout on Sunday afternoon for some motivation. There are two 37-year-olds in Virat Kohli and Bhuvneshwar Kumar who are still devoted to the game, still reinventing themselves.

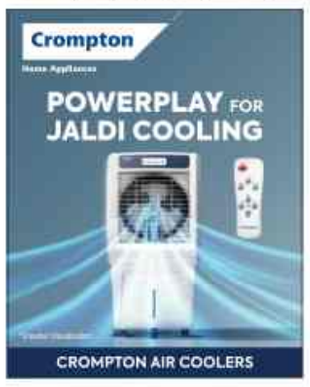
NUMBER GAME

1 Punjab Kings have won just one and lost six out of the last seven fixtures contested at HPCA Stadium, Dharamshala, between May 17, 2023 and May 14, 2026.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
RCB	12	8	4	0	1.053	16
GT	13	8	5	0	0.400	16
SRH	12	7	5	0	0.331	14
PBKS	12	6	5	1	0.355	13
RR	11	6	5	0	0.082	12
CSK	12	6	6	0	0.027	12
KKR	12	5	6	1	-0.038	11
DC	12	5	7	0	-0.993	10
MI	12	4	8	0	-0.504	8
LSG	12	4	8	0	-0.701	8



PCB's Naqvi not invited for IPL final

New Delhi: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi has not been invited for the IPL final in Ahmedabad and he will virtually attend the ICC Annual Board Meeting, scheduled to be held on May 31 on the sidelines of the tournament's title clash.

However, it is learnt that Naqvi will attend the ICC

ROUND-UP

Board of Directors meeting through video conference, a provision that has always existed for member representatives who are unable to travel.

The ICC meeting was originally scheduled to be held in Doha last month but had to be postponed because of the prevailing crisis in West Asia. Sources aware of the developments said Naqvi was never expected to attend the meeting in person and his participation through virtual mode was in line with standard ICC practice. Naqvi is one of the three members who will attend the meeting virtually. The conference assumes significance as it will be held alongside the IPL final in Ahmedabad with top administrators from across cricket boards expected to be present.

LSG SKIPPER PANT FINED

Lucknow Super Giants skipper Rishabh Pant has been fined Rs 12 lakh after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their match against Chennai Super Kings, the IPL said in a media release. PTI

KKR outrun sloppy GT to stay alive

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IANS

WINNING KNOCK: Finn Allen

Kolkata: Finn Allen's love affair with Eden Gardens continued. The New Zealand batter's breezy 93 off just 35 balls helped Kolkata Knight Riders stay alive in this IPL by recording a 29-run victory at the Eden Gardens against Gujarat Titans here on Saturday. They jumped one spot to seventh with 11 points from 12 games. GT, who suffered their first defeat after five wins, were left waiting for a playoff spot with one match to go.

MATCH REPORT

The opener brought back memories of his belligerent knock where he smashed the fastest century in T20 World Cup history in the semifinal against South Africa off just 33 balls at this same venue earlier this year. Allen fell short of his second ton of this season, but helped KKR put up 247/2, their highest total in this IPL, after being asked to bat first against GT.

GT's in-form openers Sai Sudharsan and Shubman Gill raced to 42 off the first three overs while chasing the target, but their stand ended a little painfully when Sudharsan retired hurt left after suffering a blow to the elbow off a delivery from pacer Kartik Tyagi.

Gill played another classic knock finding boundaries without playing too many risky shots before falling to KKR's most successful bowler of the evening Sunil Narine for 85 that came off 49 balls. Jos Buttler did give his skipper able support but could take the side home as GT finished at 218 for four.

Earlier, KKR made GT pay for some sloppy fielding after losing skipper Ajinkya Rahane (14), who became Mohammed Siraj's 200th T20 victim. Allen too could have departed for 14 had Jason Holder managed to hold on to a tough chance at cover. The right-handed batter, however, got an easy life again at 33, when Siraj dropped a sitter at long on off Holder.

However, the 27-year-old was unperturbed and continued to play his shots. Allen greeted Rashid Khan with consecutive sixes and a four to reach his 50 off 21 balls with the help of three fours and four sixes. The 95-run second-wicket stand between Allen and Angkrish Raghuvanshi finally came to an end when Allen played a lofted shot off Sai Kishore to be caught by Rashid at mid-wicket boundary. The opener hit four boundaries and 10 sixes. Cameron Green too got a life when Arshad dropped him at 33 off Rashid. The Australian too got a 50 off 26 deliveries. Raghuvanshi — KKR's most prolific scorer this season — got his seventh IPL 50 off 33 balls. The former India U-19 cricketer stayed undefeated on 82 off 44 balls.

SCOREBOARD

KKR: Rahane b Siraj 14, Allen c Rashid b Kishore 93, Raghuvanshi (not out) 82, Green (not out) 52. **Extras:** (LB-1, W-4, NB-1) 6. **Total (for 2 wkts, 20 overs) 247.** **Fall of wickets:** 1-44, 2-139. **Bowling:** Siraj 4-0-50-1, Rabada 4-0-40-0, Holder 4-0-39-0, Rashid 4-0-57-0, Sai Kishore 3-0-38-1, Arshad 1-0-22-0.

GT: Sudharsan (not out) 53, Gill c Anukul b Narine 85, Sindhu c Pandey b Narine 1, Buttler c (sub) b Dubey 57, Tewatia c Raghuvanshi b Green 2. **Extras:** (B-1, LB-8, W-11) 20. **Total (for 4 wkts, 20 overs) 218.** **Fall of wickets:** 1-49, 2-177, 3-207, 4-218. **Bowling:** Dubey 2.4-0-23-1, Green 3-0-25-1, Tyagi 4-0-59-0, Pathirana 1.2-0-9-0, Narine 4-0-29-2, Chakaravarthy 4-0-47-0, Anukul 1-0-17-0.

Royals look to control playoff fate

Team Will Need Disciplined Bowling Show Against Delhi Capitals To Put Campaign Back On Track

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IANS

ALL SET: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

TODAY'S FACE-OFF
DC vs RR
TV TIME: 7.30 PM
STAR SPORTS / JIOHOTSTAR

New Delhi: After a long, winding two months, the league phase of the IPL is entering its final week. With only two of the 10 sides out of playoff reckoning, the rest are set for a desperate scramble to seal the top-four spots by next Sunday.

IPL

One of the teams that can still dictate its own destiny is Rajasthan Royals. Placed fifth in the points table with 12 points from 11 games, the Royals can seal a last-four berth with victories in their three remaining matches.

The blip, however, is that the Royals are entering the final stretch on the back of two consecutive defeats. One of them came against Delhi Capitals, the very opponents they face at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday.

"We've been kind of off colour in a couple of games and then the opposition teams played really well. You just got to pull one back and then try and get the fire in your, that mindset of winning. If we win all three, we don't have to wait for anyone," said Kumar Sangakkara, Royals' director of cricket, on match eve.

Topmost among the worries for the Royals team management is their lack of bowling discipline. They have conceded more than 200 runs in each of their last four games, winning only one of them. To add to their miseries, the Royals have conceded 134 extras this season, the most by any team, including the 19 they yielded in their 77-run defeat to Gujarat Titans in their last game.

The chief culprit in that game was their strike bowler Jofra Archer, who bowled an 11-ball opening over, including wides and a no-ball, and has been off the boil in the last three games. A week's break would have given the team management enough time to relook at their bowling combination. They might be mulling the possibility of bringing back left-arm seamer Nandre Burger, who was left out for the last game, and will also be keen to accommodate leggie Ravi Bishnoi in the playing XI on a tacky Kotla track.

The Royals' batting has depended heavily on the starts provided by teen sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Yashasvi Jaiswal. The onus will be on the rest of the batters, led by Dhruv Jurel, to get their act together. Riyan Parag is expected to return to lead the side after missing the last game with a sore hamstring.

Though the Capitals are not mathematically out of the playoff race, the Axar Patel-led side would admit that they need a minor miracle to finish in the top four. The all-round show of young Madhav Tiwari helped them dent Punjab Kings' playoff hopes in their previous game and the Capitals will hope they can play party poopers against Royals as well.

'Sooryavanshi not a special project for RR'

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New Delhi: From the early 90s till the time he retired, fans made a beeline to watch Sachin Tendulkar bat. In the last decade, Virat Kohli took over that mantle and drove people to stadiums. While vintage Kohli is still grabbing eyeballs, a 15-year-old now seems to have inherited the baton.

"The key for Vaibhav is to enjoy every moment. The worst thing we can do is clutter his mind. We have a conversation with him if he needs it. One thing he loves is his batting. And the most important thing about him is that I've seen he reads the game very well," said Royals head coach Kumar Sangakkara. "The one thing he should never lose is his enjoyment of batting. He isn't a special project for us but a special player," added Sangakkara.

Eye on Bumrah's workload

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AFP

SPOTLIGHT: Jasprit Bumrah

Mumbai: The senior men's selection committee, led by Ajit Agarkar, will meet on May 19 to pick India's squads for the one-off Test and three ODIs against Afghanistan in June, following the IPL. Confirming the development, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told TOI that the committee will convene to finalise the teams for the home series.

While Mumbai is a likely venue for the meeting, sources indicated that Guwahati or another city could also host it, with an online discussion not ruled out. Ahead of the formal sitting, the selectors are also expected to hold an informal virtual interaction on May 17 to deliberate on a few targeted names, particularly among emerging pacers who have impressed in recent months.

AFGHAN SERIES

The one-off Test between India and Afghanistan will be played from June 6-10 in New Chandigarh, while the three ODIs will be held on June 14 (in Dharamshala), 17 (Lucknow) and 20 (Chennai).

Shubman Gill is expected to lead both the Test and ODI sides. There has been plenty of speculation that some of India's leading players, especially premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah, may be rested from the series following a gruelling IPL, especially as the one-off Test is not a part of the World Test Championship. However, a source confirmed there have been no requests by any players so far. However, it's learnt that a few "targeted players, particularly some impressive pacers" could be discussed in an informal virtual meeting of the Agarkar-led committee on May 17. "As of now, no player has asked for a break. Let's see how the situation develops," a source said.

There has also been speculation that star wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant, the vice-captain of India's Test team, could lose his spot in India's ODI side, with the in-form Sanju Samson or Ishan Kishan being preferred. The highly consistent KL Rahul, of course, is set to continue as the side's No. 1 wicketkeeper-batsman.

This will be Afghanistan's first series under their new head coach, Richard Pybus. To prepare for the India tour, the Afghanistan team is currently undergoing a high-performance camp in Kabul. Afghanistan's six-match white-ball series against Sri Lanka in the UAE in March was postponed due to the Iran war.

Satwik-Chirag in final

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty are a step away from ending their two-year title drought after they reached the final of the Thailand Open BWF Super-500 tournament in Bangkok on Saturday. In the semifinals, the top seeds worked hard for one hour 22 minutes and survived several anxious moments to beat third seeds Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin of Malaysia 19-21, 22-20, 21-16.

In the final, they will face Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin of Indonesia, who beat He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu of China 21-15, 21-18. TNN

SNAP SHOTS

Duplantis vaults to victory

Armand Duplantis cruised to pole vault victory in the opening Diamond League meeting of the season in Shanghai on Saturday, but failed to improve his own world record. Duplantis already had victory sewn up in the pole vault after just two jumps before he eased to a new Shanghai meeting record in 6.12m. The Swede then raised the bar to a world record 6.32m but failed with all three attempts to beat his old mark.

Sinner completes Medvedev win: Jannik Sinner will face Casper Ruud in the men's final of the Italian Open after finishing off Daniil Medvedev in Saturday's closing chapter of an enthralling, rain-interrupted last-four clash. The world No. 1 could claim a record-extending sixth Masters 1000 title on Sunday thanks to a 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 win. Ruud gets a chance for revenge for a brutal hammering against Sinner here last year after dismantling Luciano Darderi 6-1, 6-1.

Litton's ton propels B'desh: Litton Das struck a century to rescue Bangladesh from a top-order collapse, as the hosts posted 278 in their first innings of the second and final Test against Pakistan on Saturday. **Brief scores: 1 Innings: Bangladesh 278 in 77 overs** (Litton 126, Shanto 29; Shahzad 4-81 Abbas 3-45) **vs Pakistan 21 for no loss.**

Fatima to lead Pakistan: Fatima Sana will continue to lead Pakistan which will have five players set to make their maiden appearance in next month's Women's T20 World Cup in England and Wales.

Sanjana claims bronze: Sanjana added a fourth medal to India's tally at the Asian Weightlifting Championships, clinching bronze in the women's 77kg category in Gandhinagar on Saturday.

Avani makes cut: Avani Prashanth emerged as the lone Indian to make the cut at the German Masters after producing four-under 69 in the second round to climb to 1-over par overall. Avani carded the joint second-lowest round to climb to tied-47th and safely make the cut, which fell at 2-over par. Pranavi Urs failed to make the cut. **Missed cut: Queen City C'ship, USA:** Avani Ashok, **Challenge de Catalunya, Spain:** Veer Ahlawat & Saptak Talwar.

IT'S A KIND OF MAGIC

Semenyo's Audacious Back-Heel Flick Secures City Coveted Cup

NO-LOOKING: Semenyo's deft finish stunned Chelsea

London: Antoine Semenyo produced one of the great FA Cup final goals with an audacious back-flick that sealed Manchester City's 1-0 win against Chelsea at Wembley. Semenyo illuminated a largely scrappy final late in the second half as he improvised a sublime finish to caress Erling Haaland's cross into the net.

The Ghana winger's moment of magic was enough to clinch City's eighth FA Cup triumph and their second piece of silverware this season after the League Cup final win over Arsenal in March. Semenyo joins Ricky Villa, Michael Owen, Roberto Di Matteo and Steven Gerrard among the ranks of iconic FA Cup final goalscorers. Ironically, the 26-year-old — an inspired signing from Bournemouth in the January window — was born just a stone's throw from Chelsea's Stamford Bridge home.

The third FA Cup success of Guardiola's reign ended City's run of two successive defeats in the final against Crystal Palace and Manchester United. Guardiola, who also lifted the trophy in 2023 and 2019, has now won 20 trophies in his glittering decade as City manager. Guardiola had joked that he was "disappointed" he has not had a stand named after him at the home of English football.

His attention will turn back to City's slender hopes of making it 21 pieces of silverware with a miracle in the Premier League title race.

For Chelsea, the loss was the latest blow in another turbulent campaign. Without a win in their last seven league games, they are languishing in ninth place with virtually no chance of qualifying for next season's Champions League. Under inboss Calum McFarlane, they produced an impotent display. AFP

8 This result means Manchester City have won the FA Cup eight times. Only Arsenal (14) and Manchester United (13) have won it more times.

4 Chelsea have now lost an English football record four FA Cup finals in a row and seven domestic finals in a row since Antonio Conte's side won the FA Cup.

20 Pep Guardiola has won 20 major trophies during his 10-year tenure as manager of Manchester City. **His honours:** Premier League titles: 6; FA Cup: 3 EFL Cup (Carabao Cup): 5; FA Community Shield: 3; UEFA Champions League: 1; UEFA Super Cup: 1; FIFA Club World Cup: 1

Salah urges Reds to revive 'heavy metal' football

Liverpool: Mohamed Salah issued a rallying cry for Liverpool to rediscover their attacking identity on Saturday after a painful 4-2 defeat by Aston Villa left Champions League qualification hanging in the balance.

Villa moved into fourth place with 62 points from 37 games to seal Champions League qualification by leapfrogging their opponents, who have 59 points.

Egyptian forward Salah, who is leaving Liverpool at the end of the season, expressed his frustration at the club's inconsistent campaign and called for a return to the aggressive style that brought previous success. "I have witnessed this club go from doubters to believers, and from believers to champions. It took hard work and I always did everything I could to help the club get there," Salah wrote on X. "Us crumbling to yet another defeat this season was very painful and not what our fans deserve. I want to see Liverpool go back to being the heavy metal attacking team that opponents fear and back to being a team that wins trophies.

"That is the football I know how to play and that is the identity that needs to be recovered and kept for good. Everyone that joins this club should adapt to it."

Salah was referring to the style of play under former manager Juergen Klopp,. The 33-year-old forward has not had the same relationship with manager Arne Slot as he did with Klopp. REUTERS

Nikhat's no to 48kg; Nitu-Jyoti in trial bout for WC

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Patiala: Nikhat Zareen has declined the national federation BFI's offer to compete in the women's 48kg category at next month's senior World Cup in China, choosing instead to remain focused on her long-term ambitions in the 51kg division ahead of the Olympic qualification cycle and next year's World Championships.

"It's already difficult for her to make 51kg since her weight generally hovers between 54-55kg normally. Dropping to 48kg could adversely affect her body, diet and performance," a source said.

It has been learnt that Nikhat's decision prompted the federation to organise a one-off selection trial between former world champion Nitu Ghanghas and rising boxer Jyoti Gulia for the 48kg berth. The bout is expected to take place at NS NIS Patiala on Monday or Tuesday, although BFI has not officially announced the decision. The development emerged following a BFI selection committee meeting on Friday evening after the conclusion of the three-day trials here to select India's squads for the upcoming CWG and Asian Games. **TOI** published the final list of selected boxers in its Saturday edition.

The women's 51kg category turned out to be the most competitive division. Former two-time world champion Nikhat entered the trials as one of the favourites. However, she was stunned by Army's Sakshi Chaudhary, who had dropped down from 54kg to 51kg.

BOXING TRIALS

Reigning world champion Minakshi Hooda, who competes in 48kg, had also moved up because her preferred weight class is not in the CWG and Asiad roster. She was defeated by Sakshi in the final.

SAI TO RECOMMEND DIGITAL SCOREBOARDS, FRESH COACHING PANEL TO BFI

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Patiala: The Sports Authority of India (SAI) kept a close watch on the boxing trials, amid an ongoing standoff with national federation BFI over its selection policies and assessment procedures for the CWG and Asian Games.

SAI is expected to recommend several reforms and reducing charges of favouritism. One of the key suggestions is the installation of digital scoreboards displaying round-wise scores during selection bouts.

SAI is also likely to advise the BFI to broaden coaching appointments beyond Army and Services personnel after observing that nearly 90% of the support staff currently attached to the Patiala national camp come from Army backgrounds. A fresh coaching panel could also be appointed ahead of the next Olympic qualification cycle and national championships.

Williams has opened door to more players: Jamil

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Panaji: India coach Khalid Jamil has been tracking performances of at least three players who are willing to follow in the footsteps of Ryan Williams and represent the national team.

Williams, 32, surrendered his Australian citizenship and took up an Indian passport which made him eligible to represent the national team. The Bengaluru FC winger's inclusion meant more firepower in attack, and Jamil is now convinced that adding a few more players could help turn the corner.

"Once we make these additions, there will be healthy competition for places," Jamil told **TOI** on Saturday. "Williams has definitely opened the door for others. It's a good sign."

The India coach did not reveal the identities or status of the players. With Sunil Chhetri's international retirement, a striker remains priority. "I want to have a good look. We are looking at players based on positions that we want to strengthen. There are three players. We are waiting for documents," he said.

According to Jamil, at least one of the players will be included among the probables later this year. "I have watched his matches and already given the go ahead. He is playing abroad and will be called here (to join the camp)," said Jamil.

Ahead of the clash against Hong Kong in Kochi on March 31, Jamil invited Academia del Balompie Boliviano defender Abneet Bharti to join the camp. The Nepal-born India passport holder plies his trade in the top tier of Bolivian football but could not get the nod. The India coach has now sounded out Som Kumar. The young former Kerala Blasters goalkeeper was the first to make a move to Slovenia where he joined first divisioners NK Radomlje and later ND Slovan.

Tough moments but I'm only three off Scottie

Sahith Theegala

The Majors are always a tough test and the Aronimink Golf Club, which is hosting this year's PGA Championship, is no different. For many of us, making the cut was the first 'mini goal'. Now, the focus shifts to making the weekend count.

After a difficult 2025 where injuries sidelined me from the biggest stages, being back in this field was a milestone.

This is a golf course that exposes every little weakness. The first day was great with a 2-under and I was just one behind the leaders. On the second day, there were tough moments like the triple on the tenth, the toughest hole on the course. The wind made club selection uncomfortable and the greens got firmer. If your focus drifts for even a second, the course reminds you immediately. Somewhere around the back nine, I stopped thinking about the cut and just played one shot at a time. That's when everything settled down.

After 2-under on the first day, I was 3-over the next day. At 1-over for 36 holes I was 30th at the midway stage, but only five shots behind the leaders and only three shots behind the World's No. 1 golfer, Scottie Scheffler. I was tied at the same score as the two-time reigning Masters champion, Rory McIlroy, Brooks Koepka, Jordan Spieth, Xander Schauffele and Collin Morikawa.

(SAHITH THEEGALA IS A PGA TOUR WINNER AND GLOBAL BRAND AMBASSADOR OF HERO MOTOCORP)

Hero

Kim, Rose & Kirk charge: On Saturday, Michael Kim birdied six of the first seven holes to charge into contention as Rory McIlroy teed off at suddenly vulnerable Aronimink. Chris Kirk birdied five of the first seven to stand on one-under. England's Justin Rose birdied four of the first six holes to reach one-under. Maverick McNealy and co-leader Alex Smalley, at four under, were due to start later. AGENCIES

Smith wears K'taka Open crown

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Bengaluru: American Keegan Smith lived up to his top billing by clinching the Karnataka Open ATP 50 Challenger title at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium on Saturday. The 27-year-old defeated Australia's Philip Sekulic 6-2, 7-5 to pocket USD 9,500 and 50 ranking points.

Smith (world No. 289) came up with an all-round show against the fourth seed in the final. The opening set began with an early exchange of breaks, making it 2-2. The 6-foot-7 American raised his level in the sixth game, with a forehand crosscourt winner putting pressure on Sekulic, who then double-faulted to hand Smith a crucial break and a two-game cushion. Smith soon closed out the set by winning the next two games.

ATP CHALLENGER

The second set was far more competitive as Sekulic, despite struggling to be consistent for the majority of the match, found some impressive winners to challenge his opponent. The Australian found an opening when he secured a break in the seventh game, but Smith responded immediately to level at 4-4, aided by several unforced errors from Sekulic.

Sekulic (357) then managed to save two match points on his serve. However, Smith sealed the title with a brilliant backhand passing shot, breaking the 22-year-old for the fifth time in the match.

Syed Asif

CHAMPION: Keegan Smith

Niki-Saketh triumph

It was only last week that India's Niki Poonacha and Saketh Myneni decided to pair up for the men's doubles competition, but the duo quickly found their rhythm. They claimed the title with a dominant 6-2, 6-3 victory over Russia's Petr Bar Biryukov and Kazakhstan's Grigoriy Lomakin in 52 minutes. Poonacha and Myneni got USD 2,980 and 50 ATP points for their triumph.

"This is my first title in Bengaluru and to win a (Challenger) title in Karnataka means a lot to me. The entire week was good. We improved as a team during the tournament, and in the final we played much better than we did in the first round," an elated Poonacha, ranked No. 115 in the live doubles rankings, said.

Results (finals): Singles: 1-Keegan Smith (USA) bt 4-Philip Sekulic (Aus) 6-2, 7-5; **Doubles:** Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha (Ind) / Saketh Myneni (Ind) bt Petr Bar Biryukov / Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) 6-2, 6-3.

BFC end campaign on a winning note

Chennai: Former champions Bengaluru FC registered a hard-fought 2-1 win over 13th-placed Chennaiyin FC in their final ISL game of the truncated season here on Saturday. The victory helped Bengaluru finish on 23 points and temporarily move to the top of the table. However, they are set to be overtaken on Sunday by either Mohun Bagan or East Bengal.

Chennaiyin struck first through Chima Chukwu (33rd minute). Maheson Singh initiated a swift counterattack before Farukh Choudhary teed up with Mandar Rao Desai, who calmly set up Chima for a simple finish.

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

BFC responded almost immediately as Ryan Williams (42nd minute) combined brilliantly with Lalremtluanga Fanai before slotting home the equaliser. In the second half, Williams constantly attacked from the right flank. Their persistence paid off when debutant Serto Worneilen Kom (88th minute) smashed home the rebound after Fanai's initial effort was blocked, sealing all three points for Bengaluru.

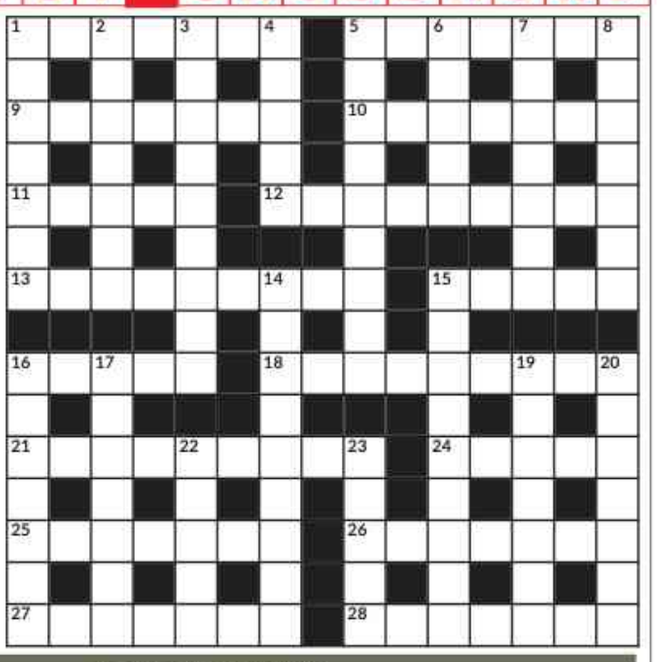
Results: Chennaiyin FC 1 (Chukwu 33) lost to Bengaluru FC 2 (Williams 42, Worneilen 88); Odisha FC 2 (Suhair 70, Hantal 90+6) lost to Punjab FC 3 (Kipgen 68, Osuji 88, Ramirez 90+3).

Today's matches: ATK Mohun Bagan vs East Bengal (7.30 pm), Sporting Delhi vs Inter Kashi (5 pm). TNN

THE TOI CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD No. TCC#0272

The **TOI Crossword contest** is on a short break, but the crossword itself will continue to be featured in The Sunday Times of India, so that you can continue to relish the challenge every week. **Stay tuned!**



The Times of India CROSSWORD EVERY SUNDAY

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across

1 In people (7)
5 Doctor should prescribe no water (7)
9 Hardwood iron tipped for a weapon (7)
10 Cast in a devilish mould (7)
11 It may be OK as a style of port (5)
12 Hence a course warning follows at that point (9)
13 Boring routine that may be exhibited by a drill team (9)
15 They may be strung up by the neck (5)
16 More curiosities keep turning up inside (5)
18 The big swell may be a bore (5,4)
21 They are utterly conclusive (4,5)
24 Give up in pro game (5)
25 Defeat in counter-revolution (7)
26 Gapes at spectacles (7)
27 Glance shows a number in fault (7)
28 Section reserved for reviews (7)

Down

1 Confirm that an animal has escaped (4,3)
2 Not unwilling to try a new blend of tea (7)
3 A Briton around Greenland (9)
4 Go round for some clothing (5)
5 Charm died out when dissipated (9)
6 An out-of-the-way route (5)
7 Canal boat (7)
8 They admit they're often punched (7)
14 Break in (9)
15 Ring contest (9)
16 King in great spirits when told (7)
17 Discarded players get stale (4,3)
19 Bill and Cyril involved in making textiles (7)
20 They grossly overwork their eyes we hear (7)
22 Start with pain (5)
23 Legend has point for French writer (5)

QUICK CLUES

Across

1 Aloof (7) 5 Ponder (7) 9 Tension-filled (7)
10 The Windy City (7) 11 Ascent (5) 12 Middle East river (9) 13 Fairly good (9) 15 Fortunate (5)
16 Plant, source of opium (5)
18 Make a quick escape (3,3,3) 21 To backfire (9)
24 Due (5) 25 Exacerbate (7) 26 To comfort (7)
27 Gathering of a crop (7) 28 Something left over (7)

Down

1 Amount short (7) 2 Breed of dog with drooping ears (7) 3 A wrangle (4-5) 4 Championship in sport (5)
5 Beneficiary (9) 6 Member of a religious order (5)
7 Springy (7) 8 A leader of Russian revolution (7)
14 Capital of Romania (9) 15 Sleep (4,2,3)
16 Make generally known (7) 17 To hold out (7)
19 A rootstock (7) 20 Fail to care for (7)
22 Avoid doing (5) 23 An adhesive-toed lizard (5)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC

E	R	A	S	E	D	■	P	R	I	V	A	T	E	S
O	■	P	■	P	■	■	■	U	■	A	■	O	■	I
U	P	R	O	O	T	■	P	I	L	C	H	A	R	D
A	■	I	■	C	■	M	■	N	■	A	■	S	■	E
B	I	L	L	H	O	O	K	■	S	T	A	T	I	C
L	■	F	■	S	■	L	■	P	■	I	■	■	■	A
E	R	O	S	■	B	I	L	L	P	O	S	T	E	R
■	■	O	■	E	■	E	■	E	■	N	■	H	■	■
G	U	L	F	S	T	R	E	A	M	■	T	R	I	P
A	■	■	■	P	■	E	■	S	■	H	■	O	■	E
L	I	T	T	E	R	■	R	E	V	I	E	W	E	D
L	■	R	■	C	■	B	■	D	■	T	■	S	■	A
E	X	A	M	I	N	E	E	■	C	O	C	O	O	N
O	■	C	■	A	■	T	■	■	■	U	■	U	■	T
N	E	E	D	L	E	S	S	■	S	T	A	T	U	S

QUICK

F	A	M	O	U	S	■	P	R	O	C	L	A	I	M
I	■	O	■	P	■	■	■	A	■	O	■	M	■	A
G	R	O	U	S	E	■	P	R	I	N	C	E	S	S
H	■	T	■	H	■	A	■	E	■	F	■	N	■	T
T	O	P	N	O	T	C	H	■	B	R	I	D	G	E
E	■	O	■	T	■	C	■	D	■	O	■	■	■	R
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R	E	A	S	O	N	■	G	O	G	E	T	T	E	R
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Ton-up Aarav powers Bangalore United

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Bangalore United CC rode on Aarav Bajaj's (108; 83b, 18x4) blistering century and three-wicket haul to register a commanding 138-run victory over Whirlwind Cricketers in the KSCA U-16 inter-club tournament here recently.

Brief scores: Bangalore United CC (1): 322/4 in 50 overs (SM Bhavith 94, Lakshmi Narayan 64, Aarav Bajaj 108 n.o (18x4); Saket Chandramouli 2-51) **bt Whirlwind Cricketers: 184 in 48.4 overs** (Shubhan Hiremath 57, Tanuj M 37; Souhard B 2-23, Aarav 3-30, Naksh CM 2-23). **Swastic Union CC (2): 189/6 in 50 overs** (Rohan Reddy 27, Vivaan Balamahesh 45, Krishna Sreekar 39 n.o; Atharv Kabugade 2-32) **lost to Blue Diamond Cricketers: 190/5 in 34 overs** (Aagneya Karanth 29, Tambrahalli Samanyu 62, Siddharth Narayan 59 n.o; Ashith Sanjay Girish 2-38).

KSCA U-16 INTER-CLUB

City Gymkhana: 255/8 in 50 overs (Arnav Manchale 59, Siddharth HS 32, Vedant Shaurya 47, Hemanth Shekar 39; Anirudh Prasanna 2-44, Samarth HN 2-31, Avik Jha 2-51) **bt Mount Joy CC: 149 in 41 overs** (Aanchit Jha 27, Pranav Avrur 36; Hemanth 2-34, Tejas Bhat 2-21, Nandheeshwara HS 3-17).

Herons CC: 182 in 44.2 overs (Ashwwath Nagarajan 59, Niraj V 33; Ramnath Nayak 3-23, Samarth Gautam Rayabagi 2-18, Aksh Yadav 2-14) **lost to Jayanagar United Cricketers: 186/5 in 38.4 overs** (Yadalla Krishna 99 n.o, Ramnath 43, Shravan Reddy 2-39, Varun Kaushik 2-23). **Visweswarapuram CC (2): 163 in 33 overs** (Sohum Joshi 29, Ved Mishra 36, Cherish Kumar 34; Saharsh Velumury 2-21, Rajdeep Banerjee 3-50, Ayaan Ali 2-24) **lost to Johnson CC: 166/6 in 32.3 overs** (Harikrishna S 58 n.o, Rajdeep 51 n.o; Shreeharisingh 3-36). **Vivekanagar Cricketers: 295/6 in 50 overs** (Akarsh Appinakatte 120 n.o (122b; 15x4; 2x6), Dushyanth Gowda 44, Shishir 31 n.o; Krishna KA 2-58) **bt Bangalore Cricketers: 129 in 32.1 overs** (Navaneeth Kothapalli 38; Shishir 2-22, Nikhil Kashyap 3-36, Preetham Gowda 3-27).

Moonveil best bet

Bengaluru: Sulaiman Attaollahi-trained Moonveil, to be piloted by Trevor Patel, looks good to win the War Hammer Million, the feature event to be run over a distance of 1400 metres here on Sunday.

HORSE RACING

Iron Mirage, under the care of trainer Prasanna Kumar and Satish Narredu-trained Deep Respect are the two main threats to Moonveil. The first race starts at 3 pm. **1.The Newmarket Plate 1200M:** Double Scotch 1, NRJ Gold 2. **2. The Sweet Memories Plate 1400M:** Knotty Cruise 1, Tiger Bay 2. **3. The Aihole Plate 1200M:** Regal Reality 1, Monterio 2. **4. The War Hammer Million 1400M:** Moonveil 1, Iron Mirage 2. **5. The Track Lightning Plate 1400M:** Starzella 1, Legacy Field 2. **6. The Racing Patrons Plate 1400M:** Elysium 1, Hazel 2. **Day's best:** Knotty Cruise. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. **Mini Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5 and 6. **First Treble:** 2, 3 and 4. **Second Treble:** 5, 6 and 7. TNN

Star Glory gallops to victory

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Satish Narredu-trained Star Glory, ridden by Yash Narredu, made every post a winning one in the BTC Charitable Trust Trophy, the main event at the summer races here on Saturday. Trainer Satish Narredu cornered glory recording a treble through, Supreme Success, Star Glory and Shining Ways.

1. The Quasar Plate (Div II) 1400M: Acantha 1, Art of Romance 2, Star Comet 3, Real Happiness 4. 1/2l, 2-1/2l, 1/2l. T: 1:27.28. Tote: Rs 20 (W). 12, 12, 19 (P). Fc: Rs 79. Q: Rs 40. Shp: Rs 33. Thp: Rs 42. Trinalla: Rs 320 & 192. Exacta: Rs 1768 & 1118.

2. The Ich Dien Plate 1400M: Supreme Success 1, Royal Jewel 2, Vafadar 3, Magna Carta 4. 2-1/4l, 3/4l, 3l. T: 1:27.45. Tote: Rs 23 (W). 11, 11, 14 (P). Fc: Rs 38. Q: Rs 19. Shp: Rs 26. Thp: Rs 35. Trinalla: Rs 103 & 60. Exacta: Rs 304 & 135.

3. The Quasar Plate (Div I) 1400M: Baashha 1, Exceed 2, Noble Cause 3, Feeling Good 4. 1-3/4l, 3-1/4l, 3l. T: 1:26.13. Tote: Rs 34 (W). 16, 10, 32 (P). Fc: Rs 107. Q: Rs 43. Shp: Rs 30. Thp: Rs 54. Trinalla: Rs 685 & 433. Exacta: Rs 1782 & 520. **4. The BTC. Charitable Trust Trophy 1400M:** Star Glory 1, Global Influence 2, Don Carlos 3, Ricardo 4. 1-3/4l, Snk, 8l. T: 1:25.37. Tote: Rs 79 (W). 24, 10 (P). Fc: Rs 148. Q: Rs 74. Shp: Rs 23. Thp: Rs 23. Trinalla: Rs 357 & 267. Exacta: Rs 338 & 120. **5.The Star Contender Plate 1200M:** Shining Ways 1, Regal Beauty 2, Burevestnik 3, Personal Legend 4. 1l, 2l, 1l. T: 1:13.44. Tote: Rs 41 (W). 13, 18, 11 (P). Fc: Rs 281. Q: Rs 133. Shp: Rs 51. Thp: Rs 40. Trinalla: Rs 847 & 355. Exacta: Rs 9665 & 6903.

6.The Manitou Plate 1200M: Solara 1, Darrington 2, Hushed 3, Khazana 4. 2-1/2l, Snkl, 2-3/4l. T: 1:13.38. Tote: Rs 17 (W). 10, 14, 76 (P). Fc: Rs 36. Q: Rs 25. Shp: Rs 28. Thp: Rs 151. Trinalla: Rs 911 & 708. Exacta: Rs 1866 & 417. **Jackpot:** Rs 17,682. **Runner-up:** Rs 4,021. **Mini Jackpot:** Rs 9,090. **First Treble:** Rs 550. **Second Treble:** Rs 1,471.

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Pakistan Cricket Board chief Mohsin Naqvi to virtually attend May 31 ICC board meeting; has not been invited for IPL final in Ahmedabad

SUNDAY TIMES OF INDIA

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Remember the crunch of every little chip…

…and laughter-filled afternoons with mango, in every sip?

Remember the racing of your heart,
Hoping a new love story may start?
Nervous blinking and overthinking?
Remember the beginning of a relationship…

…one bottle, two straws and mango, in every sip?

Remember spending Diwali with ma and pa?
Back for the holidays from someplace far?
Tight hugs and tender kisses
That every child living elsewhere misses?
Remember catching up on all gossip…

…with Chotu and Chintu over mango, in every sip?

Remember when you decided to get married,
And what the parents would say left you worried?
But when they met, it all turned out merry
With both family trees - all pleased so very.
Remember remembering how life is but a funny trip…

…and so you toasted with mango, in every sip?

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Mango, in every sip.

Robert Lewandowski leaves FC Barcelona this summer, says his mission is complete & that 'Barca is back where it belongs'

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Accept plaints of police excesses since 2021, Suvendu directs cops

'Political Violence Victims Can File Fresh FIRs In WB'

Tamaghna.Banerjee
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Kolkata: Police stations across Bengal must accept complaints of cops' excesses in the last five years, CM Suvendu Adhikari said Saturday after his first administrative meeting with top officers. The meeting carried high symbolic significance as it took place in Diamond Harbour, the Lok Sabha constituency of Abhishek Banerjee, TMC general secretary and former CM Mamata Banerjee's nephew.

Speaking after the meeting, the CM highlighted four categories, saying alleged victims of political violence, police brutality, harassment of women, and extortion or bribery linked to welfare benefits would now be allowed to file fresh complaints.

"Those who were victims of political violence over the last five years can file fresh FIRs. There have also been allegations that people were detained and beaten for several days by police. These complaints should be filed. Police will accept them," Adhikari said.

PTI

Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari during a BJP workers' rally at Falta in South 24 Parganas district on Saturday. Falta is part of Diamond Harbour LS seat represented by TMC's Abhishek Banerjee. It goes for repolling Thursday after widespread allegations of malpractices

In a bid to underline a larger political message, Adhikari said that Bengal would now move towards rule of law instead of the "law of ruler". "From today, no one will extort (money from) auto drivers, Toto drivers or hawkers. Nobody should pay tolls without an official receipt. If anyone demands money, people should directly approach police stations," the CM added.

Alleging that the Mamata-led TMC govt had weakened administrative discipline and institutional hierarchy, he the police welfare board will be dissolved.

Abhishek booked for 'inflammatory' poll remarks

An FIR has been lodged against TMC national general secretary and MP **Abhishek Banerjee** for allegedly making inflammatory remarks during the 2026 assembly polls. The case was registered on May 15 after a complaint from social activist Rajib Sarkar, which was submitted on May 5, a day after the results were declared. A senior officer said it alleges Banerjee made provocative comments regarding post-poll violence and the vote-counting process during his rallies between March and May. Some remarks were also allegedly linked to Union home minister Amit Shah. TNN

Cattle slaughter crackdown hits supply at lone Kolkata abattoir

Kolkata: Fresh cattle supply to Kolkata's lone abattoir in Tangra stopped Thursday after Bengal's new BJP govt tightened enforcement of slaughter rules under a 1950 law and a Calcutta HC order.

Officials at the abattoir said Saturday more than 180 cattle were housed there, but only 22 would be cleared for slaughter because the rest failed to meet govt norms. Before restrictions, Tangra abattoir processed between 150 and 200 cattle daily, with numbers occasionally touching 250.

An order issued Wednesday cited provisions of WB Animal Slaughter Control Act, 1950, and a 2018 high court order barring slaughter without valid certification declaring an animal fit for slaughter. The order says certification could be issued only jointly by head of the concerned urban/rural local body and a govt veterinary surgeon. It must state that the animal is either over 14 years of age and no longer fit for work or breeding, or incapacitated because of age, injury, deformity or incurable disease. TNN

UP woman fights snatchers for 23 minutes, 2 held

Agra: A 45-year-old woman fought two bike-borne snatchers for nearly 23 minutes after they tried to snatch her bag in Etah's Jaithra area in UP late May 6. Police arrested the accused after an encounter early Saturday, officials said. CCTV footage showed Anita Devi being punched, pushed into a drain and dragged along the road before the accused fled when people nearby started moving towards the spot, reports **Sudeep Lavania**.

Anita was returning from Agra with her son Ritik, 23, after taking him to a doctor when the incident took place.

The footage showed the accused dragging Anita along the road, but she did not loosen her grip on the bag. Two people heard her screams and started moving towards the spot, after which the accused fled on the motorcycle. *(With inputs from Vikas Dubey)*

Gadchiroli is officially free of Maoists: Cops

Nagpur: Maharashtra delivered a knockout blow to Maoist insurgency, effectively wiping out guerrilla presence in Gadchiroli district in a 100-hour coordinated action this week, leaving zero active Maoists in police records. This comes 45 days after Union home minister Amit Shah's March 31 deadline to eradicate left-wing extremism in the country, reports **Soumitra Bose**.

The last four standing members of the Maoists' military wing, Company 10, were taken out of their hideouts while two members of the dreaded 'dalam' surrendered. "Gadchiroli is now officially Maoist-free," said SP M Ramesh. Officers described the day as "the end of Maoist insurgency" in Maharashtra. The operation was codenamed Antim Prahar.

HC: Razing of AIMIM man's Sambhajinagar properties 'shocking'

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Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: The Aurangabad bench of the Bombay high court on Friday expressed strong displeasure over the demolition of properties linked to AIMIM corporator Mateen Patel by the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation, observing that the civic body's action appeared "shocking and unfortunate" as an assurance had been given before the court that due process would be followed before taking coercive action.

The matter was urgently mentioned before the vacation bench on Friday by advocates Krushna Rodge and Abhaysinh Bhosle, appearing for Patel as well as Hanif Khan, owner of the house where a TCS employee had stayed while evading arrest. The TCS-Nashik employee was accused in a case of alleged sexual harassment and religious coercion.

House where accused TCS employee stayed was demolished last Wednesday

When pointed out that demolition of Patel's home, his office as well as Hanif Khan's home was done without following due process, Justice Vaishali Patil-Jadhav remarked, "Yes, it is indeed shocking and unfortunate."

The petitioners' counsel submitted to the court that, the civic body allegedly conducted the demolition around 6am on May 13 — hours before the 24-hour notice period expired around noon. The lawyers argued that the action was "deliberate, misleading".

SP neta gets 2-yr jail for 'clean my shoe' remark during 2019 polls

Meerut: A special MP/MLA court in Rampur Friday sentenced senior Samajwadi Party's functionary **Azam Khan** to two years' imprisonment for his "objectionable" remarks during the 2019 Lok Sabha election campaign in Uttar Pradesh, reports **Sandeep Rai**. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on him.

According to additional district govt counsel Sandeep Saxena, the case stemmed from an FIR lodged in 2019 by then-assistant returning officer over the remarks directed at the then-district magistrate and poll officials, and the matter was subsequently heard in MP/MLA special magistrate court.

During a public poll rally, Khan, who was contesting as the SP-BSP alliance candidate, allegedly referred to DM as a "tankhaiya" (salaried employee) and told supporters not to fear him. Prosecutors said Khan also said after winning the election, "the officer would be made to polish his shoes".

Army & cops in custody tussle over Major who shot jr at Pulgaon range

Soumitra Bose & Milind Ande | TNN

Nagpur/Wardha: A day after Major Manan Tiwari shot a junior commissioned officer, Subedar Major Om Bahadur Khand, during a routine firing practice at Asia's largest ammunition depot in Pulgaon, a high-stakes custody battle erupted between the army and Wardha police.

Army officials are consulting their Judge Advocate General (JAG) branch to proceed with court-martial formalities, emphasising internal disciplinary mechanisms and the need to protect operational secrecy at the sensitive Central Ammunition Depot (CAD), said top sources. An Army spokesperson, however, described the incident as an "accidental discharge" during routine practice and stated both the Army and police are jointly investigating.

COPS DOUBTFUL IT WAS 'ACCIDENTAL'

However, Wardha police remained sceptical, pointing to the close-range burst of fire as inconsistent with "accidental discharge". They are pushing for custody of Major Tiwari for detailed interrogation to establish the full sequence of events and any possible motive, said top police sources. No immediate evidence of prior enmity has surfaced.

Cops who went to the high-security military installation had to follow strict defence protocols before accessing the crime scene. According to a senior legal expert, "The Army gets priority and can secure custody first. It police get custody, it is only transitory."

Rock story: Andhra Pradesh findings show Eastern Ghats were once fused to Antarctica

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Visakhapatnam: Before oceans split and long before dinosaurs, India and Antarctica shared a spine of fire-forged mountains. Today, more than 9,000km separate the "siblings" lost in deep time.

Granulite rocks in Andhra Pradesh have delivered what scientists call "smoking gun" evidence that India's Eastern Ghats and East Antarctica were once fused in a vast mountain belt before Gondwana cracked and Indian Ocean opened between them millions of years ago.

Scientists studying ancient formations in Vizianagaram-Salur region said they have traced matching geological fingerprints across continents now worlds apart. Same age. Same mineral chemistry. Same scars of heat, pressure and tectonic upheaval etched deep inside Earth's crust.

Pic for representation

'Smoking gun' evidence was found in AP's granulite rocks, which showed same age and chemistry as those in East Antarctica

Findings tie Eastern Ghats to Antarctica's Rayner Province, strengthening long-held theories that both belonged to a colossal mountain system called Rayner-Eastern Ghats orogen before Gondwana splintered apart.

Scientists focused on granulites—metamorphic rocks forged under high temperatures and pressure far beneath Earth's surface. Inside them lay zircon, garnet and monazite minerals that acted like time capsules. "Zircon survives in conditions that destroy most other minerals and preserves a precise timeline of ancient Earth processes," said Prof Sankar Bose, dean of natural and mathematical sciences at Presidency University, Kolkata.

Team included Bose, Shubhadeep Roy, Sayantika Ghosh, Sneha Mukherjee, Nilanjana Sorcar, and J Amal Dev from Presidency, researchers from Queensland University of Technology, Australia, National Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, and Korea Polar Research Institute, South Korea. Using uranium-lead dating and advanced mineral analysis, researchers reconstructed shared chapters in the rocks' history.

Around 130 to 150 million years ago, during age of dinosaurs, Gondwana began breaking open. Rifts widened into what became Indian Ocean. India surged north towards Asia. Antarctica slid towards the south pole. A mountain belt broke and sailed away on separate tectonic rafts. Yet rocks remembered.